

UKC[®] FIELD

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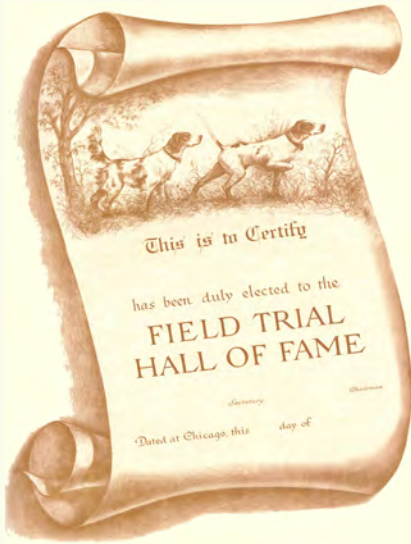
A Newsletter by United Kennel Club





UKC TEAM IN THE FIELD

— Domenick Muoio



2022 Field Trial Hall of Fame Elections

The major circuit stakes—all-age and shooting dog—have been completed, the current 2021-2022 field trial season winding down, signaling what might be termed the “summer phase” for the field trial community, in short, Field Trial Hall of Fame nominations and elections.

Having been announced in 1953, the Field Trial Hall of Fame held its first elections in the summer of 1954 and have continued every year since, except 2020 when it was not feasible to hold the elections due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As is well known, there are two categories of honorees—*Dogs* and *Persons*. The hallmark of a candidate for Hall of Fame recognition is contributions to the sport.

For *Dogs*, the win record of a canine candidate should be impressive, not just the number of wins, but the significance of the wins. Performances by a deserving nominee should be such that they elevated the quality of a stake in which he or she competed.

Likewise, emphasis is also placed on production—i.e., the number of winners produced and the quality of the wins these dogs earned.

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

Insofar as *Persons* to be considered for Hall of Fame honors, contributions to the sport is paramount—club official, breeder, owner, handler, correspondent, patron of the sport, and usually a combination of these facets and over a goodly span of time. In short, the question: Is the field trial pastime better for having this *Person* involved?

As in past years, readers may submit endorsements for *Dogs* and *Persons* they deem deserving of election to the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

Stay tuned for the voting process and ballots!

Nominations may be emailed to: Dinora Wellmann • dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

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On the Cover: Little More Shine
2022 Region 4 Amateur All-Age Champion
Dr. Kristine & Tim Hammons, Owners
Tim Hammons, Handler

U.S. COMPLETE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Hirollins Gone and Doneit wins 2022 Running

By David Huffine | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 3, 2022



U. S. Complete Southeastern Championship (front to back, from left): Warren Parrott, Fred Rose, John Outlaw, Tony Bingham, Mark Hughes, Greg Robinson, Ashby Morgan (judge), Margaret Drew, Gretchen Adsit, Lee Flanders (judge), and Earl Drew.

Hirollins Gone and Doneit was named Champion at the Southeast Regional Championship for the U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association held at J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds at Hoffman, N.C. The strikingly handsome and muscular white and orange pointer bested a field of 42 dogs to easily capture the Championship. “Gunner” is owned and was expertly handled by Warren Parrott of Scranton, S.C. The Champion is 4 years old and was sired by Fastforward’s B K Gunner with Littlewing B K Tia as his dam.

Runner-up Champion was awarded to Smoke Rise Jake, a white and liver pointer male owned and handled by long-time and extremely successful field trialer Fred Rose of Pinehurst, N.C. Jake was sired by Stoney Run’s Buddy with Smoke Rise Mariah as his dam.

The Championship was judged by experienced U.S. Complete amateur competitors, Ashby Morgan of Mathews, Va., and Lee Flanders of Elberon, Va. Both judges have won National Amateur Handlers of the Year for the USCSDA and were perfectly suited to judge the Championship under the organization’s standards.

The grounds are approximately 9,000 acres of long leaf pine and wire grass habitat with 6 continuous courses. They are located within the 61,000-acre Sandhills Gamelands maintained by the State of North

Carolina. The North Carolina Field Trial Association uses fees paid by the field trial clubs to support the bird program. Only early release birds are found on the courses and there are no supplemental birds used for the trials. The bird population at Hoffman has been good this year but birdwork was at a premium this Championship.

THE RUNNING

The Championship commenced on Thursday, March 3, at 8:00 a.m. with pleasant temperatures in the mid-40s. Miss Shamrock Grace was scratched resulting in Brown’s Miss April beginning the trial as a bye dog. April was handled by Sean Melvin who guided her to the National Championship at the Hoffman Grounds in 2021. The years have taken some of April’s race and a bracemate would have been helpful. She began with a modest race but lengthened later in the brace. She finished her hour but produced no birds.

Mark Hughes released a setter male, Wayward Flyin Tomato, to run against Lincoln County Stoney, a pointer male owned and handled by Gary Whitworth, into the rapidly increasing heat to begin brace 2. Tomato was long early but settled in nicely for a good finish in the

70-degree heat. Birds were seen at 36 but it was unclear as to whether any dog was in the vicinity. Gary's dog showed good style on his ground work. He had an unproductive at 26. Thereafter, the heat was taking its toll on the dog and Gary collared him at 30 near the Army Camp.

By the third brace the temperature had risen to 72 degrees with high humidity. Two setter females matched up with Black River Sue (Melvin) and Sweet Southern Belle handled by Robert Little, breaking away at 10:24. Sue had a back at 17. She finished with a moderate, snappy race but found no birds during her hour. Bob's dog had an unproductive at 17. She had a find at 58 but moved too much on flush and was called up by the judges.

The last brace of the morning broke away at 11:33 with no relief from the temperature or humidity. Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella, a pointer female handled by Robert Ecker, was missing early and Robert called for the tracker at 30. Her bracemate, Cairds Remi (PF/Little), was stylish on the ground but had some periodic difficulty finding the front. She finished her hour with no bird work.

The afternoon brought no relief from the heat with temperatures reaching the mid-80s. Brace 5 began on Course 4 at 2:00 with Low Country Katie (PF/Whitworth) being braced with the Champion, Hirollins Gone and Doneit. Gary's dog looked great when seen but was a bit erratic with no bird work. He called for the tracker at 58. Gunner reveled in the 83-degree temperature showing an exceptional forward race. He refused water and took the heat so easily. At 28, Warren found him pointed in the road with a large covey in the oak leaves. The second find was on a single bird at 54, all in order. Warren collared him away from the find and Gunner went to the front with an amazing finish to his Championship performance. He appeared ready for another hour.

The sixth brace kicked off at 3:13 with Frank Joyal running his handsome pointer Armstrong Mountain Dustie and Warren Parrott releasing his second dog, Hirollins Hot Diggity Dog (PM). Dusty looked great on the ground with a most appropriate Hoffman walking dog range. However, he was under birds shortly after the road crossing and was up at 41. Warren's dog was long early and then shortened significantly in the heat. Warren leashed him at 30.

The last brace of the opening day featured Braggabull, a pointer female handled by Mark Hughes, and Dunroven's Midnight Ike (PM/Ecker). Both dogs showed good range early but shortened in the afternoon heat. No birds were found.

Friday morning brought a northeast wind and the expected cooler temperatures for the eighth brace breakaway on Course 1. Lucky Recharge, an exceptionally good-looking pointer male handled by gallery favorite Earl Drew, surged to the front with style and flair. He had an unproductive at 48 but had no bird contact for his hour. His bracemate, Miller's Special Upgrade (PF/Hughes) also looked great on the ground with a more modest but forward race. He also failed to have bird contact.

Suemac's Sashay (PF/Hughes) and Maximum Resistance (ESM/Ecker) shared the running in the ninth brace. Mark's dog was quick and snappy with a modest race that lengthened over her hour. She had an unproductive at 48 but no bird contact. Max broke away fast and was rarely seen after breakaway. Robert called for the tracker at 28.

The weather remained good for the tenth brace with a breakaway temperature of 52. Smoke Rise Hanna (PF/Rose) had difficulty with the front early but recovered to finish her birdless hour to the front. Her bracemate Miss Lady W (PF/Drew) had a nice forward race but also failed to locate birds.

The final brace of the morning pitted A Distant Spec (PF/Hughes) against Cook's Back In Black, a pointer male owned and handled by Harry Cook. Spec had a conservative forward race, always handling for Mark but located no birds. Harry's dog blistered the course, showing great style, but found no birds. He made a huge cast to the left late in

the brace and Harry had to call for the tracker at time.

Smoke Rise Bull (PM/Rose) and Miss Penn Star (ESF/Ecker) headlined the first afternoon brace. Temperatures held in the high 50s, a vast weather improvement over the prior day. Bull had a modest but irregular race and finished with no bird work. Miss Penn Star showed great range and style, especially as Robert showed her on the hill after the creek crossing on Course 4. However, she also had a birdless day.

Ecker loosed Grousehill Bullet Proof (ESM) to begin brace 13. The nice setter had a good, medium race and had a rare Friday find at 23. Robert's dog finished his hour. His bracemate was Island Blue Genes (ESM/Drew) who had a nice forward race but suffered another Hoffman "Nice Race – No Birds" performance.

The last brace of Friday's running paired Miller's Hopped Up Version (PF/Hughes) with Mohawk Mill War Eagle (PM/Cook). Mark's dog had a modest race, handling well, with an unproductive at 30. War Eagle had a huge race with all-age characteristics but produced no birds. He had an unproductive at 38.

Saturday morning brought warmer temperatures (52) at breakaway for brace 15. Doc's Haven Jake's Law (PM/Hughes) broke away on Course 1. He had trouble finding his race and Mark leashed him at 38. His bracemate Clayhill T Bone (PM/Cook) was standing at 12. Harry whistled to tighten him up. He moved into birds and was up.

Brace 16 matched Black River Ruby (ESF/Melvin) and Smoke Rise Cece (PF/Rose). Ruby was behind early but found the front and showed well for Sean. She had an unproductive at 43 and was unable to produce birds. Cece had a short to medium race and finished her hour.

Melvin was back on the line with Brown's Ace (PM) paired with Runner-Up Champion, Smoke Rise Jake (PM/Rose). The dogs had a divided find at 24, all in order. Ace had a second find at 55. Ace showed a moderate, forward race. Jake was medium to long and looked really good on the ground and on his find.

The last brace on Saturday morning consisted of Sterlingworth Jack (ESM/Ecker) and Lincoln County Buddyboy (PM/Whitworth). Both dogs showed well to the front with Gary's dog having the slightly bigger race. Jack had an unproductive at 46 with Buddyboy backing. No birds were seen during the brace.

Ramapo Mountain Doc (PM/Ecker) and Sweet Grass Slim (ESM/Huffine) broke away on Course 4 to begin the afternoon braces. Doc was short and Robert picked him up at 18. Much to this reporter's dismay, Slim was the opposite end of the spectrum. He was last seen heading over the first rise at about 3. Huffine called for the tracker at 18.

The twentieth brace began in the early part of Course 4. Attakullakulla, a setter male owned and handled by Darryl Grantham, and Double Deuce Zeke (PM/Hughes) broke away. Unfortunately, the reporter was still chasing Slim from the prior brace and did not observe the performances by either dog. Reports indicated that both dogs had modest races with no bird work.

The final brace of the Championship matched Bo of Piney Woods (PM/Ecker) owned by that wily veteran trialer Rich Wartens with Good Reason Farkleberry, a setter male owned and handled by our favorite newcomer to Hoffman walking trials, Kerri Elfvin. Robert picked up Bo at 15 as he struggled with the afternoon heat. Kerri's dog finished the hour with a modest but pretty race and one unproductive.

Hoffman, N. C., March 3

Judges: Lee Flanders and Ashby Morgan

U. S. COMPLETE SOUTHEASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 30 Pointers and 12 Setters

Winner—HIROLLINS GONE AND DONEIT, 1679825, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner—Littlewing B K Tia. Warren Parrott, owner and handler.

Runner-Up—SMOKERISE JAKE, 1684876, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy—Smoke Rise Mariah. P. F. Rose, owner and handler.

PAUL WALKER OPEN DERBY CLASSIC

The Championship was followed by the Paul Walker Derby Classic which drew twenty-four promising derbies. Mark Hughes handled Miller's Special Upgrade, a white and lemon pointer female owned by Carlos Escalante, to a first place finish with an impressive forward race. Second place went to Miramichi River's Real Coy, a pointer male owned by Kyle Price and expertly handled by Robert Little. Third place went to Chippokes Fancy Lady, a white and liver pointer female owned and handled by Lee Flanders. Ashby Morgan and John Outlaw judged the derby stake.

Judges: Ashby Morgan and John Outlaw

PAUL WALKER OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 23 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—MILLER'S SPECIAL UPGRADE, 1695107, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version—Miller's Special Edition. Carlos Escalante, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

2d—MIRIAMICHI RIVER'S REAL COY, 1693181, pointer male, by D C's Mr. Cooper—Chasehill Bewitched. Kyle Price, owner; Robert Little, handler.

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

SPECIAL THANKS

The North Carolina Field Trial Association partners with the North Carolina Wildlife Commission to provide the premier field trial grounds in North Carolina. We sincerely thank both entities for their commitment to the land, facilities and our sport.

The handlers' dinner was graciously provided by Verlene Stephenson, owner of last year's champion Ringo's Sweet Heart.

Greg Robinson pulled the dog/gallery wagon for our trial. He provides great coffee and drinks at breaks as well as cookies for the sweet tooths among the handlers and gallery members. He always has the dogs loaded in a timely and accurate fashion. Greg's enthusiasm is wonderful and he normally has the winners accurately picked before



Paul Walker Open Derby Classic: Mark Hughes, Robert Little, Avery West, Miles Whaley, and John Outlaw (judge).

the announcements are made.

Gretchen and John Adsit saved each day for the trial chairman by helping with daily lunches. They were an important part of the trial team.

Tony Bingham graciously provided needed judges' horses for the afternoon braces. We greatly appreciate his contributions and service.

The Cape Fear Field Trial Club would also like to commend all of the owners and handlers for their exemplary behavior during the trial. Everyone was congenial and courteous which is certainly refreshing and appreciated.

HANOVER FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

By Kirk Regensburg | King William, Virginia | March 5, 2022

The Hanover Field Trial Association's Fall U.S. Complete Trial was held on Saturday, March 5, 2022, 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. We would like to extend our sympathy to the Gottwald family on the death of Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr.

Dennis Bosewell had the facilities in good condition for the field trial. The club is fortunate to have use of these pristine grounds for field trials. It was a crisp, sunny day. It was a good day to run dogs. A good time was had by all.

We would like to thank Nestlé 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. George Ramkey, Bert Wright and Kirk Regensburg planted birds. Retta Ramkey typed the program. Art Mourino provided the Kawasaki mule which Trey Rector and his wife used to transport the dogs and handlers to the starting line. The gallery wagon was provided by Pat Brooks. Waverly Coleman drove his truck to pull the gallery wagon.

Charlotte Regensburg and Judy Jones provided lunch—fried chicken, potato salad, cole slaw and butter beans were served. 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.



Waverly Coleman Amateur Shooting Dog Stake (from left): Jimmy Crandall with Mugsy, Dennis Kivikko with Louise, and Verlene Stephenson with Heart.

THE STAKES

There were 11 dogs in the Puppy stake. Four dogs were entered in the Derby stake and 16 dogs entered in the Shooting Dog stake. Judging the Puppy stake were Meredith and Judy Jones. Judging the Derby stake were George Ramkey and Bert Wright. Johnny Lewis and Butch Haywood judged the Shooting Dog stake.

“Suzie”, a setter female, took first in the Puppy stake. Owned by Steve Graham and handled by Jimmy Crandall, Suzie ran a big snappy, stylish race. She ran with a high tail and was responsive to her handler. She was collared at pickup. “Thor”, a setter male, placed second. Owned by Ronald Blackburn and handled by Dennis Kivikko, Thor had a good race coupled with style. Thor handled and was picked up when time was called. “Toby”, a setter male, took third. Owned and handled by Matthew Phillips, he ran a big race. Thor handled well. He was picked up at time.

Our judges agreed the Puppy stake was one of the best puppy stakes they had seen. All of these dogs showed potential to become good competitive shooting dogs.

The Derby stake was dominated by handler Matthew Phillips, who took both first and second place. First place was “Rue”, a setter female. Second was “Mary Jane”, a setter female. Both dogs had a big race and multiple finds. But Rue had a stronger finish and handled better. “Blaze”, a Brittany male, took third. Owned and handled by Sue Gwynn, Blaze ran a nice race and handled well. Blaze had a find and a back.

In the Shooting Dog stake, the judges were given the daunting task of selecting the top 3 performers from the 16 contestants entered in this stake. There were numerous contenders that performed admirably and without fault.

First place was “Mugsy”, a pointer male, owned by Jimmy Crandall. Mugsy had 5 finds. He ran a nice forward race to the front. Mugsy hit all his objectives and finished strong. His performance was without

blemish, earning him “Dog of the Day” recognition as well.

The second place dog was “Louise”, a pointer female. Handled by Dennis Kivikko, Louise had 3 finds. Louise ran a good forward race and finished up nicely. “Heart”, a pointer female, took third. Owned and handled by Verlene Stephenson, she had 6 finds. Heart had a good race and finished up well.

Mugsy, owned by Jimmy Crandall, was named Dog of the Day, winning the Waverly Coleman Shooting Dog trophy.

The Club would like to thank all the judges, participants and guests for coming and supporting our sport. The Association looks forward to their next U.S. Complete trial scheduled for the fall of 2022.

King William, Va., March 5 – One Course

Judges: Judy Jones and Meredith Jones

AMATEUR PUPPY – 1 Pointer, 7 Setters and 3 Brittanys

1st—BACK CREEK SUZIE, 1696529, setter female, by Maximum Resistance—Deciding Point. Steve Graham, owner; Jimmy Crandall, handler.

2d—BENTON SADDLE THOR, 1694227, setter male, by Maximum Resistance—Deciding Point. Ronald Blackburn, owner; Dennis Kivikko, handler.

3d—PHILLIPS SCOUT, unreg., setter female, breeding not given. Matthew Phillips, owner and handler.

Judges: George Ramkey and Bert Wright

AMATEUR DERBY – 3 Pointers and 1 Brittany

1st—RUE, unreg., setter female, breeding not given. Matthew Phillips, owner and handler.

2d—PHILLIPS MARY JANE, 1699222, setter female, by Maximum Resistance—Hunter Run’s Knockout. Matthew Phillips, owner and handler.



Amateur Puppy (from left): Jimmy Crandall with Suzie, Dennis Kivikko with Thor, and Matthew Phillips with Toby.



Amateur Derby (from left): Matthew Phillips with Rue, Mr. Phillips with Mary Jane, and Susan Gwyn with Blaze.

3d—RED GRANITES BLAZE OF SUNSHINE, 1694753, Brittany male, by Horizon's Beyond the Sunset—Red Granite's Abbey Road. Susan & William Gwyn, owner and handler.

Judges: Butch Haywood and Johnny Lewis

WAVERLY COLEMAN AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 10 Entries

1st—LANCASTER'S HIT MAN, 1679423, pointer male, by Waybetter Rocky—Calico's Touch of Class. Jimmy Crandall, owner and handler.

2d—PIRATE'S MEAN LOUISE, 1656151, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Pirate—Bevy's Mean Girl. Dennis Kivikko, owner and handler.

3d—RINGO'S SWEET HEART, 1668688, pointer female, by South Bound Ben—Shadow's Carolina Molly. Verlene Stephenson, owner and handler.

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MASTERS QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

Miller's Blindsider Wins 2022 Running

By Andrew Campbell | Albany, Georgia | March 6, 2022

The 53rd running of the Masters Quail Championship was held between March 6-8, directly overlapping with the All-America Championship in Illinois – and drawing some competitors north prematurely instead of enjoying warmer temperatures and wilder birds. Nevertheless, from a field of 35 starters—32 pointers and 3 setters—judges Wallace Reichert of Whitesburg, Ga., and Jeff Gibbons of Prattville, Ala., awarded the Norman J. Ellis Memorial Trophy to Miller's Blindsider, owned by Nick Berrong, and handled by Jamie Daniels, with Touch's Breakaway Fred, owned by Gary and Becky Futch, and Bruce and Karen Norton, as runner-up. While it was Fred's first win, Blindsider had won this same event in 2020 – and in the last week had just taken runner-up in the Southeastern Championship.

This year's courses were almost a throwback in the sense that not only were the morning courses back on Blue Springs, but the dry winter meant that the championship was able to use the full second course for the first time in several years. And while it was bittersweet to see some of the old landmarks like Sam Ellis's house and the Carey House (justifiably) gone, it was a nostalgic pleasure to have the memories of handlers and dogs coursing through the mosaic of fields above the Flint River, past the Booger Field and Rabbit Bluff, return once again.

The afternoon courses were once again run on the old 'North End' at Nonami Plantation. The Southern Field Trial Club is extremely grateful to Mr. Witt Stephens and to Mr. Ted Turner for their generosity in offering their grounds for what remains one of the premier wild-bird trials in the country. Thanks, too, go to Marty Adams and Ray Pearce, the

respective managers, for their superb stewardship of these remarkable properties.

The Club is also deeply grateful to its perennial sponsors, Purina and Flint River Equipment, for their ongoing support of this event in particular, and the sport in general.

THE WINNERS

Miller's Blindsider (Daniels) had originally run on the second morning with his owner, Nick Berrong, riding along in support. Drawn in the eighth brace with Touch's Blue Moon (Cody McLean), this was almost a throwback for Daniels as well. When he won his first Masters Quail Championship in 2015 with Dominator's Rebel Heir, he had also started midway through the first course due to early pickups in the brace before. Offering nothing other than historical perspective, this year's edition featured several strong performances but not a stand-out, authoritative win like that offered by either Rebel Heir in 2015 or Touch's Mega Mike in 2018. And as such, the judges had work to do to sift amongst their top dogs. These two dogs were turned loose at the end of the first of the two long Smith Fields, both pushing out hard through the woody corridor on the right, the light breeze coming from the southwest. Both dogs would finish that lane and cross the head of the field unseen, the call of point for Blue Moon at 0:04 just 10yds before the dogleg in the course at the River Road crossing confirming this assumption (along with the subsequent sighting of Blindsider out in



Masters Quail Championship Winners (from left): Tim Moore, Jeff Gibbons (judge), Jack Schwarz, Woody Watson, [unidentified], Ian MacTavish, Judd Carlton with Miller's Blindsider, Jamie Daniels, Nick Berrong (Blindsider's owner), Wallace Reichert (judge), [unidentified], Hailey Moreland with Touch's Breakaway Fred, Mark McLean, Karen Norton (Fred's co-owner), Bruce Norton (Fred's co-owner), Gary Futch (Fred's co-owner), and John Mathys.

the woods to the south). Blue Moon's birds were directly ahead of him in the scrubby grass. As the gallery passed north and swung through the tawny broomsedge, Blindsider would appear from the left side, reunite with the gallery, and go forward again to climb the bowl ahead. A little more than a quarter-mile further on, Daniels would then call point for Blindsider on the front edge of 'the deerstand field' at 0:11, calling birds in the air as he approached, this reporter confirming the flight to the oncoming judge who was otherwise blocked by a young pine. Both dogs would move smoothly past the South Pond, and turn northeast as the course followed the rough trajectory of the Flint River a quarter mile to the south. Coming up over the first whaleback, Blindsider would be out in the patchwork of fields to the north while Blue Moon would drop over the shoulder to the right above the swampy edge and come to a stop at 0:30 in a shady cover block beneath a single, tall pine, and a pair initially rising, the remainder bursting out the broomsedge at the shot. As the course crossed the red dirt of the River Road, both dogs would favor the right hand edge, Blindsider dropping further into the wooded corridor to the right. He would come to a stop at 0:42 some 250yds down into the bottom below where the course normally leaves the 1000-yard long, going-away field to head northeast. The judge would see the covey get up ahead of the mannerly dog as the handler cantered forward to him after the call of point. As that piece of birdwork concluded, the call of point would come for Blue Moon in the cover on the very northeastern edge of the long, going-away field at 0:44, the dog looking back into the southwesterly breeze. The initial flush would prove unsuccessful, but after a relocation some 25yds ruther upwind to the next cover block, a covey would be put up successfully ahead of him. Crossing the River Road once more to begin the passage eastward, Blue Moon would concentrate on the woods immediately to the left of the course, Blindsider would push out wide into those same woods. His scout would call point at 0:52, the dog found standing off the southwest corner of a north-south cover crop field, some 350yds north of the course. Tall and proud, he had a covey pinned directly in front of him – a capstone fund after two in which the birds' premature

flight might have been so easily missed. (For those looking for a more precise location, the cover crop field is located immediately west of the old Davis cemetery, in the section of woods between the River and Blue Springs roads.) Blue Moon, too, had scored another find at 0:52 in the words of the judge, 'out to the front and in there deep.' As the gallery moved past the brick chimney, the sole reminder of the Carey House, in advance of the final turn north, Blindsider would come in to the gallery before punching out to the northeast – while Blue Moon could be seen punching out the far, northeastern corner of the Booger Field, seemingly intent on finding the edge of the Allison Swamp. While it would take a few minutes to gather up Blindsider at the call of time, Blue Moon would be found pointed just barely beyond where he had been last seen, turned back into the breeze, a large covey of birds immediately around him in the broomsedge. Truth be told, in terms of ground race and finish, Blue Moon had been the match of his brace mate, but his style had been inconsistent in the second half of the brace. Blindsider, by comparison, had paired a strong, wide race with immaculate, proud style, the quality of his finds increasing each time.

Touch's Breakaway Fred (McLean) ran in the fourth brace, with his owners, Gary Futch and Bruce & Karen Norton riding in the gallery in support, originally paired with Erin's Wild Atlantic Way (Eisenhart). Turned loose on the first afternoon course at Nonami, the sizeable gallery would also be greeted by open skies and unseasonably warm temperatures in the 80s. One of the reasons for Nonami's success in maintaining such healthy quail populations is the lack of standing water that can support the birds' larger, natural predators. After a dry winter, even regular damp spots – like the swampy plash a mile due east of the afternoon breakaway close up to Wildfair Road – barely supported mud, let alone water for dogs to cool off in. The action would begin early at 0:04 after both dogs had initially moved out on the left side of the course – with Eisenhart calling point for Wild Atlantic Way midway between the end of the first big bowl and the first cover crop field to the north, some 150yds below the course. A nice covey of birds would be pushed out ahead of him – at which point, everyone noticed Fred

standing some 15yds away looking onto the scene. While it is not impossible he was already backing, it seems more likely – especially keeping in mind the degree of sportsmanship that does exist between the handlers on this circuit protecting their competitors’ dogs as much as their own – that he had arrived and seen Wild Atlantic Way stopped as Eisenhart was flushing and had demonstrated perfect manners of his own accord. In either case, he would be credited with an honor and taken forward by his scout to his handler. Roughly another half-mile further ahead, with both dogs still out on the left side of the course with its irregular patchwork of cover crop fields, the call of point would first come for Wild Atlantic Way at 0:10 and then for Fred some 200yds further east in an oaky bottom; both dogs would have birds pinned directly ahead of them, the covey ahead of Fred sizable enough that it could be seen rising from Wild Atlantic’s find. Both dogs would be taken to the solitary water tank on Nonami roughly parallel with the Blue Springs equipment shed, from which point Wild Atlantic would move out some 300yds before coming to a stop once more at 0:26, looking into a shaded oaky thicket, the surprise being that only a single bird would be sent aloft by his handler. Having made the turn northward by 200yds or so, he would stop again at 0:30 looking into a very sparse cover square some 250yds west of the River Road with plenty of style to spare. A small bevy of birds would be put up ahead of him, and indeed as he was collared and taken on, the main bulk of the covey would get up behind and downwind of him. For his part, Fred would then come to a stop at 0:32 in the northwest corner of the long cover crop field north of the equipment shed, the dog looking into the shade beneath a large, flowering cluster of plum bushes. The handler would call birds in the air from the backside and fire, but these were unseen by the judge. In the meantime, Wild Atlantic had also come to a stop out on the left side of the course at 0:36, but even the relocation would fail to produce anything. As the gallery passed the charred, despondent shell of the Baptist Church (which had apparently burned in late-March last year), the heat had begun to take its toll on Wild Atlantic, his stride shortening even if his determination had not waned; Fred had otherwise shown little change, swinging across from the left side to meet his handler before crossing the main dirt road that traverses Nonami. He would be found in the wedge of woods between two of the long north-south cover crop at 0:59, birds readily ahead of him, his scout quickly taking him on to reassure the judges of his ability to finish strong. Both dogs had performed admirably in the hot conditions, Fred nevertheless clearly distancing himself from his bracemate as time drew on.

The judges also wished to acknowledge the particular performances of two other dogs: Erin’s Wild Atlantic Way (Eisenhart) and Touch’s Gallatin Fire (McLean).

THE RUNNING

It should be mentioned once more, from both a sentimental and a practical point, how nice it was to be running on Blue Springs Plantation once more for the morning braces. There is no possible history of the Masters without Blue Springs: these grounds, this terrain, these consistent generations of birds, have been a part of this championship since its first running, no matter changes in ownership, no matter the necessary removal of some old landmarks, and the addition of new others. The first brace saw Chief’s Rising Sun (Carlton) drawn against Touch’s Joy Ride (McLean), with his proud owners Bruce & Karen Norton in attendance. Rising Sun would come to a stop right at the end of the very first field at 0:01, right where the lower edge of the woods begins. After the initial flush would prove fruitless, Rising Sun would be only afforded a brief relocation effort before being taken on. As it happened, there were birds to be found up on top of the low shoulder to the right some 200yds further on, albeit by Joy Ride at 0:03. As the gallery crossed the first major, now-pine-bordered field (hereafter recognized as the Ernest Martin field in honor of one of the homestead that had used to sit on its western edge) and dropped down into the Bay Pond hollow, it would only be the flight of birds that would cue the judges and handlers into the presence of a dog tucked

into against its shadowy edge at 0:12; that dog was Joy Ride. At the Smith Fields, Joy Ride seemed to have stayed out on the left side while Rising Sun was out on the far right of the long fields but as the gallery reached the end of the second long field, neither Joy Ride’s handler or scout could be seen, both concerned the dog had slipped out to the east. Nevertheless, the dog showed up at the dogleg under his own cognizance and in one of those acts of true sportsmanship, Eisenhart immediately took over handling the dog to the front in the time it took for McLean to be alerted and come forward. Shortly afterwards, though, Carlton would concede that his dog had given him the slip and ask for his tracking device at 0:39. Joy Ride would make the turn below the South Pond and around to the northeast. He would stay down on the river side of the course, and then drop into the dry Show Me Bottom as the gallery approached the first whaleback. Time would get called at the conclusion of that rounded hill, the dog successfully returned from out front after roughly ten minutes.

The second brace drew Dunn’s True Reign (Eisenhart), with proud owner Claudia MacNamee riding in attendance, alongside Touch’s Gallatin Fire (McLean). Turned loose from the conclusion of the first whaleback, both dogs would make smooth progress through the second and across the red clay of the River Road. Both dogs would enter the long going-away field on the left side and disappear from view in the woods. Eisenhart would be the first to call point at 0:10, some 200yds down that left side, True Reign standing tall some 25yds deep, the birds rising as he dismounted in view of the oncoming judge; McLean would then call point for Gallatin Fire a further 250yds ahead at 0:11, the birds also rising spontaneously as the handler dismounted and in full view of the judge. Crossing the River Road once more with the procession of cover crop fields out to the right, both teams of dogs and handlers had nonetheless avoided those fields’ obvious rectilinear sequence of lines and edges and stayed out in the woods to the north, Gallatin Fire glimpsed moving along the brief field edge some 300yds to the north, True Reign working the heart of the woods ahead of his handler. Roughly parallel with the gap between the first and second large crop fields to the south, and approximately 100yds into the woods to the north, True Reign would come to a stop at 0:27 looking across the easterly breeze and into an oaky thicket. Sadly, neither the flush nor the relocation would prove fruitful. Gallatin Fire, in the meantime, had swung across the course and would be found standing at 0:33 roughly 200yds down the northern edge of the third cover crop field in the stand of adolescent pines. The judge would see the last members of the upwind covey leave as he rode up, another covey leaving from the downwind side as the handler fired. As the gallery approached the Carey House field, Eisenhart would elect to pick up his dog at 0:36. While he had gotten hung up and come up from the side in between, Gallatin Fire would continue to move well on the inside of the course as the course angled northeast past the Allison Swamp and turned north towards Cat Pond. He would come to a stop roughly 200yds southeast of that little pond at 0:52, looking into the shady thicket beneath a young live oak, the birds successfully flown ahead of him. Taken on barely 200yds, he would stop and point once more at 0:54, with all in order. Taken on once more, birds would get up from the very next line of pines, but with no clear evidence of the dog’s involvement, he would be taken across the field for the turn west towards the big rotator field. He would finish his time moving well through the woods out on the right side.

The third brace would bring Miller’s Stray Bullet (Norman) to the line with Confident Nation (Eisenhart), his proud owner, Scott Jordan, riding in the gallery in support. The morning, by this time, had grown increasingly warm. Turned loose in the woods towards the big rotator field, Stray Bullet would swing out to the left and come to a stop in a small hollow in the shade of a mature pine at 0:03, the birds called and seen as the handler and judge approached. Confident Nation had gone directly out front, also coming to a stop at 0:04 up against the field edge, birds readily flown ahead of him as well. Crossing the rotator field, Confident Nation would punch out to the northwest and then swing counterclockwise around the now-pine-rimmed edge to reconnect with

his handler and punch through the curtain of young pines towards the power lines, all trace of Sam Ellis's house now gone. Stray Bullet had not been seen for some time by the time the gallery reached the five-stand range, but both handlers were deep in the woods to the left expecting that their dogs had been drawn down into the southerly breeze. Eisenhart would call point at 0:18, perhaps only 100yds down into the woods to the south, the judge once again fortunate to see the birds called in flight at their approach. Stray Bullet had reappeared by the time the gallery reached the dogleg in the powerlines, albeit making the turn south from the right side of the powerline channel. As the gallery crossed the rapeseed field to the south, point would be called for Stray Bullet at 0:29, roughly 100yds west of that field's southwest corner, although neither the flush nor the brief relocation effort would prove fruitful. While Eisenhart had successfully gathered up Confident Nation at the powerline dogleg, and dropped him into the rolling pine woods, he would concede defeat at 0:43 and come for his tracking receiver. The indisputable heat also appeared to have shortened Stray Bullet somewhat by this point, nevertheless he would continue to make a valiant effort out front for the rest of his time.

The fourth brace featuring Touch's Breakaway Fred (McLean) and Erin's Wild Atlantic Way (Eisenhart) has already been covered in the placements.

The fifth brace drew Woodville's Yukon Cornelius (McLean) head-to-head with Dominator's Queen Bee (Daniels), with several members of her owners coalition 'The Morning Brace' in attendance. Both dogs would breakaway smartly up over the rolling ridges to the north. Up over the first big rise with a view to the wide-open north (and shortly before the course would turn west to come under the rotator field), Queen Bee would come to a stop at 0:11, the birds seen rising by the judge on the way to the dog. Soon thereafter, on the other side of the course, McLean would see something he didn't like and opt to pick up his dog at 0:13. Making the turn successfully, Queen Bee would then come to a stop at 0:16 roughly 400yds east of the bottom edge of the rotator field atop a low ridge, looking into an oakly thicket. However when the flush and the relocation proved unsuccessful, Daniels opted to save his dog any further effort in the heat.

The sixth brace featuring Rebel Cause (Daniels), with owner David Williams in attendance, and Erin's Silver Lining (Raynor), would not fare much longer. Dropping largely south and then southwest from the rotator field, Silver Lining would periodically appear ahead of his handler for the first 10 minutes or so as the course traversed a series of crop fields. He would then punch up over a rise to the left and disappear – leaving his handler to come for his tracking receiver at 0:18 as the course approached the northernmost edge of the golf course. In the meantime, Rebel Cause had swung out wide to the west before swinging around south at his handler's squall; nevertheless, as the gallery reached the main access road to the Nonami stables, Daniels would elect to pick up his dog at 0:22.

The seventh brace brought Touch's Blue Knight (Watson) to the line with Erin's Tin Star (Carlton), with his proud owner, Mike Sweet, riding along in support of his nice, young dog. Turned loose from the regular Blue Springs breakaway, both dogs would initially move up through the woods on the right, although after roughly a half-mile Tin Star would be found standing at 0:06 under a prominent live oak on the edge of the cover crop field on the left side of the course. Unusually, only a single bird would be produced ahead of him. Despite aggressive scouting, Blue Knight had apparently stayed high on the right side after the breakaway but never reconnected with his handler who was forced to admit defeat and ask for his tracker at 0:18. Tin Star would be seen climbing out of the bowl above the Bay Pond at 0:15, but by the time Carlton reached the end of the first of the long Smith Fields at 0:30, he would come for his tracker.

The eighth brace featuring Miller's Blindsider (Daniels) and Touch's Blue Moon (C. McLean) is already covered in the placements.

The ninth brace drew Lester's Georgia Time (McLean) head-to-head

with Dominator's Bull Market Bud (Daniels). Turned loose shortly after the Booger Field, Bull Market would initially stop in a tall, grassy cover strip out on the right side of the course at 0:05, however neither the flush nor the relocation would produce anything. Approaching the Cat Pond, Bull Market would stop once more at 0:12, roughly 125yds down the edge of an east-west cover crop field, turned back into the southeasterly breeze beside a trio of adolescent pines, the birds directly ahead of him. For his part, seeing something he apparently didn't like, McLean opted to pick up his dog at 0:14 immediately before Cat Pond. Having made the turn to the west towards the big pivot field, Bull Market would come to a stop at 0:19 in the main feed trail some 500yds shy of the field edge, having turned sideways into the southerly breeze – the birds once more directly ahead of the stylish dog. He would go perhaps another 200yds, cross the feed trail, and stop once more at 0:21, although this time nothing could be flown ahead of him ending his bid.

The tenth brace featured Touch's Folsom Blues (McLean), with owners Bruce & Karen Norton in attendance, alongside Late Hit (Shenker). Folsom Blues would immediately break out to the left and out towards the bowl, while Late Hit would concentrate on the right parallel to Wildfair Road. With temperatures in the 80s, both dogs would be gathered up on the opposite sides of the course around 0:10, although Folsom Blues would then elect to then cross out to the right as well. Both would make the swing successfully around to the northeast as the gallery earned its first view of the Blue Springs headquarters, Folsom Blues moving out ahead of Late Hit. Roughly 200yds north of the equipment shed in the low swale, Late Hit would come to a stop at 0:29, birds readily flushing ahead of him. Folsom Blues had been moving well, but apparently a little too well, forcing McLean to ask for his tracking receiver at 0:30. Late Hit would continue on to the north, but the heat was beginning to take its toll and Shenker would elect to pick up his dog at the eastward turn towards the Baptist Church at 0:37.

The eleventh brace drew Game Ice (Raynor) and Dominator's Rogue Rebel (Daniels), with his proud owners Jack & Sarah Schwarz riding along to watch their dog. Sadly, it did not fare much better than the previous one. Turned loose in the direction of the Baptist Church, Rogue Rebel would immediately punch north into the mosaic of cover crop fields and new pines that reclaimed the former, three-quarter mile diameter rotator field. (If you look at the evolution of the property using Google Earth, this field in particular takes on the esoteric character of a Friedenreich Hundertwasser painting.) Game Ice would move out nicely to the east and punch out all the way to the edge of the Blue Springs Road – at which point a white SUV would come past and Game Ice would attempt to keep up, his handler making an initial frantic chase and then obliged to come for his tracker. (The dog would be found safely.) Despite frenzied riding by both handler and scout, Rebel Rogue had seemingly disappeared into a Bermuda Triangle and would be declared lost at 0:21.

The twelfth brace brought Touch's Malcolm Story (McLean) to the line with Dominator's Rebel Queen (Daniels) – and their luck would take an equally peculiar, but no more fortunate twist. If nothing else, the brace provided an illustration of the sometimes capricious, faithless nature of scent and scenting conditions. Turned loose just north of the blackened shell of the church, Malcolm Story would push northbound past the sinkhole on the right and then come to a stop roughly three-quarters of the way down the left edge of the next skinny cover crop field at 0:03. The flushing effort was thorough, but fruitless – and the dog asked to relocate. He would do so, briefly look over his shoulder in stride some 25ft further on, but then take himself on. The birds would then flush from the very spot he had been standing. It would be hard to say that either dog or handler had been at fault, but the handler acknowledged that this was a significant stain on his dog's performance and elected to pick up at 0:03. Crossing the main access road, Rebel Queen would then come to a stop at 0:13 out on the left side (with the easternmost flags on the golf course just barely visible), standing in the shade of a prominent live oak. Daniels would flush, then ask the dog to relocate, the dog would do so rigorously and then

be collared up to be taken on, and three birds would also get up from the very spot the dog had been standing. With the circumstances slightly different, Daniels would elect to take his dog on – but upon reflection and a review of what was likely already in the judges' books – he would pick up shortly thereafter roughly parallel with the 'Swilcan Bridge' on the Nonami golf course.

The thirteenth brace saw Erin's Primetime (Raynor) head-to-head with Senah's Back In Business (Norman). While Prime Time would concentrate on the woods section to the right, Back In Business would push up through the left, showing on the edge of the first cover crop field. Moving past the Bay Pond and up onto the next plateau, Unfinished Business would be seen out in the far corner of the Henry Childs field to the southwest. He would be found standing at 0:22, roughly 100yds below the skinny crop field immediately south of the much-larger Henry Childs field, standing in a broomsedge patch with the birds immediately located and flushed ahead of him. Primetime, in the meantime, appeared to have slipped out to the east. By the time the gallery reached the second of the Smith Fields at 0:31, Raynor would accept defeat and come for his tracking receiver. There is nothing easy about running an all-age dog in the piney woods, and this is even more so on Blue Springs than on Nonami with its rolling terrain and irregular cover crop fields – and the role of the scout takes on an even more critical role. With the gallery roughly halfway down the 600yd-long field, the call of point would come at 0:34 for Unfinished Business. In their southbound second-half, the Smith Fields separate into a trident of long narrow cover crop fields, the gap between the center and the eastern tang a 75yd-wide strip of prime cover and tall pines. The call of point had come from 300yds behind the gallery, the dog tucked just into the grass off the center tang some 50yds down. (This would be the same spot that we had almost missed Sunnyhill Jo in 2018, only to be found by erudite scouting.) The birds were immediately ahead of the stylish dog and flushed without incident. Taken on through the dogleg at the end of these fields and back out to the south, he would nonetheless slip out to the east somewhere leaving Norman to finally break out his tracking receiver at 0:55 at the deerstand field above the South Pond.

The fourteenth brace brought Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton) to the line with Dogwood Bill (Stringer). It would be a brace with plenty of excitement: the action starting at 0:05 just before the turn northeast parallel to the Flint River. Birds would be seen by both handlers rising ahead of their stopped dogs down in the grassy hollow to the left, but unseen to anyone else, they would simply take their dogs on. Making the turn north at the Show Me Bottom, the call of point would come for Bill at 0:12 in the northwest corner of the skinny cover crop field immediately to the left of the course, the birds seen rising as the judge punched through a screen of young pines on his way to the find. Just over the crest of the first whaleback to the right, Heat Advisory would come to a stop at 0:15, Bill passing low enough along the swamp edge below not to have seen him to honor – although sadly neither flush nor relocation would produce birds. Bill would stop again at 0:19 with Heat Advisory honoring, just over the right shoulder at the conclusion of the first whaleback, looking into a cover square replete with a stand of four young pines. He stood looking downslope into the southeasterly breeze – and indeed the covey of birds would be put up from the next upwind cover square. He would punch almost due north and, thanks to skillful scouting, be found at 0:24 just across the red dirt River Road some 400yds west of where the course normally crosses and enters the long going-away field, this time for just a pair of birds. With the course dropping down away from the long going-away field, both dogs had stayed high in the woods to the right, the call of point coming for Bill at 0:36 perhaps 75yds down off the pivot field edge and roughly midway between the going-away field and the River Road. A large covey of birds would be seen getting up 15-20yds upwind ahead of the stylish dog. Turned loose once more, he would drop southeast, cross the River Road, and stop on the front corner of the first of the large cover crop fields at 0:39, the birds accurately located ahead of him; the feat would be repeated shortly thereafter at 0:40, the birds seen leaving by

the judge. He would be seen moving smoothly along the outside edge of the second field before crossing across the front well ahead and then punching up to the north with the call of point would come at 0:47 up against the thick, swampy bottom. The handler would call birds in the air, but they were unseen against the dark screen of trees – and so the dog would simply be taken forward. In the meantime, Carlton would be out in the woods to the left trying to reconnect with Heat Advisory who had swung wide out of the long-going away field – although he would concede that the dog had lost contact with him and come for his tracker at 0:47. Having crossed the course once more in a bold sweep, the call of point would come at 0:55 out towards the river, Bill standing in an oaky thicket barely 50yds from the lip above the river. The flushing and relocation efforts would prove unsuccessful (although birds would flush some distance away as the dog was collared forward). He would then perform a mannerly stop-to-flush on a single almost immediately at 0:57 as he was turned loose at the corner of the next cover crop field. Despite a slew of birdwork, Bill had continued to thrill with the quality of his finds and his boldness navigating the course. Nevertheless, the interruptions of the final thirteen minutes, none of which had directly produced judicable finds, and the dog finishing up crossing a freshly turned over field meant that the sizeable momentum he had built up to that point had dissipated. Nonetheless, it was exhilarating to see a man with just one dog in the race strike a little trepidation into those several with more than a few.

The fifteenth brace featured Shadow's Lord Magic (Davis) alongside Notorious Dominator's Heir (Mathys). Turned loose from the first major northbound turn, Lord Magic would be the first to make game roughly a half-mile down the course at 0:05, standing out in the cover on the north side of the trail – birds readily flown ahead of him for the judge to see. Making the turn west after Cat Pond, Lord Magic would come to a stop roughly midway down the cover crop field on left at 0:19, Heir honoring with style – sadly, though, and despite a relocation effort, it would prove barren. Both dogs would drop into the pocket of woods to the left and both would come to a stop roughly 200yds east of the big pivot field – Lord Magic seen first at 0:24 only 30yds out from the main path, Heir found shortly afterwards roughly 75yds deeper into the grassy woods at 0:25. Birds would be flown out successfully ahead of each of them. Heir would then cross the pivot field and swing up into the curtain on young pines to the right, coming to a stop at 0:31 – although after an initially fruitless flushing attempt, the handler would simply take his dog on rather than try to relocate in the evergreen jungle. As the gallery moved down the powerlines, Heir would cross the course out to the right and be found standing in the woods directly opposite the 5-stand clay target field at 0:36, a covey of birds readily flown ahead of him from the thick, grassy cover block. Pushing down that outer edge, he would be found again at the dog leg in the powerlines at 0:45, standing under a large live oak, birds once more directly in front of him. In the meantime, Lord Magic had worked diligently ahead of his handler, although never quite pushing the front out as would have been needed. Instead of the usual turn left at the dogleg, the course continued down the powerlines to Pole 49, or put differently, as the assortment of trucks and horse trailers would come into view over the rise some 600yds away, the course would turn down into the cover crop field on the left leaving time to expire with both dogs out front as it came parallel with the old drive-through on Queen Ash Road. While Heir had held up well in the heat and indeed had exceeded his bramate on the ground, his pattern had occasionally erred on the lateral and lacked the degree of forward punch that others had.

The sixteenth brace brought Touch's Whitey Ford (McLean) to the line with Dominator's Wild Bill (Daniels), with owner Nick Berrong riding in support. After breaking away east from the usual afternoon location, Wild Bill would come to a stop at 0:03 to the right of the main trail standing in a block of broomsedge bracketed by pines – although sadly this would come to naught. Shortly before the cover crop field on the left, itself roughly parallel to the muddy hole on the right side, Whitey Ford would come to a stop just off the main feed trail to the left at 0:12, the birds immediately ahead of him and rising easily for the handler.

He would then punch out into the rolling woods to the left, point then called for him at the front end of an east-west cover crop field at 0:17. Birds would be called in the air at the handler's approach, but unseen by the judge, Whitey would simply be taken on. In the meantime, Bill had pushed south out towards the road where he would be found standing at 0:19 at the head of the last valley before the turn north at the Blue Springs headquarters, the birds easily seen by the judge. Despite moving well, though, as the gallery passed north above the Blue Springs equipment shed, McLean would decide to save his dog in the significant heat at 0:28. Wild Bill would show nicely out along the roadside edge before dropping into the eastern of the two long cover crop fields, moving smoothly along the far edge and out of sight. He would seem to get a little hung up as the gallery came parallel to the Baptist Church – and Daniels would go out to gather him up and promptly elect to pick him up at 0:45, concerned about the cumulative effect of the heat on a young dog.

The seventeenth brace brought Sandy Hill Wally (Raynor) to the line with Supreme Confidence (Eisenhart). Temperatures had been above 80degs all afternoon, but reached their zenith during this and the final brace, topping out above 86degs with a stiff breeze coming out of the south and southeast. Wally would never quite find his stride in this heat and Raynor would pick him up at the main access road at 0:13. Supreme Confidence would be found shortly afterwards at 0:14 some 100yds north on the far side of the road, out to the left of the long going-away fields, standing in the shade of a prominent live oak – but sadly this would produce nothing. He would move smoothly through the remainder of the northbound leg, moving with sufficient gusto that it would take a little effort to turn him west to come under the big rotator field. Nevertheless, after making the turn, he would come to a stop in the first swale at 0:35, a covey of birds immediately ahead of him in the oaky thicket. He would come to a final stop down in the woods on

the right side of the course, roughly 100yds west of the center pivot, on the southern face of a small hollow marked with two large live oaks and a number of young pines. Sadly, the initial flushing effort and a full, diligent relocation effort would yield nothing ending the young dog's bid.

Due to a scratch, the eighteenth brace would only feature Mayhaw's Perfect Storm (Mills). Dropping due south from the rotator field, Storm would climb up over the first big rise and come to a stop in an oaky thicket close to a large cover crop field at 0:05, the birds rising easily ahead of him. Angling southwest slightly to come around the golf course, Storm would come to a stop roughly 125yds west of the golf course at 0:11, the birds easily produced from the oaky thicket he was looking up into. Storm would work diligently ahead of his handler, although at times he would be more lateral than forward. He would nevertheless still be moving well out to the east as the gallery approached the long, low, southbound valley so often a little damp in previous years but after a brief conversation with the judges, Mills would elect to pick up his dog in the significant heat.

Albany, Ga., March 6

Judges: Jeff Gibbons and Wallace Reichert
MASTERS OPEN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 33 Pointers and 3 Setters

Winner—MILLER'S BLINDSIDER, 1674983, pointer male, by Just Irresistible—Miller's Bring the Heat. Nick Berrong, owner; Jamie Daniels, handler.

Runner-Up—TOUCH'S BREAKAWAY FRED, 1680750, pointer male, by Touch's Mega Mike—Touch's American Baby. Eddie & Carole Sholar, Ted & Marsha Dennard, Bruce & Karen Norton, Gary & Becky Futch, owners; Mark McLean, handler.

NGSPA REGION 5 CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Peter Coppens | Pinckneyville, Illinois | March 7, 2022

The championships began March 7 at Pyramid State Park near Pinckneyville, Ill. We would like to thank Purina for their continued support of this trial. Shoutout to Greg Blair, Terry Trzcinski, Karl Gunzer, and Jim Moorehouse. Jim is also a generous supplier of SportDOG collars for our champions. Dogs Unlimited and Alan Davison are also supporters of this trial. We'd like to thank Diane Rakers for lunches, paperwork, clean up, picking up where we need help and staying on us to get our write-up turned in. A trial doesn't happen without volunteers to drive the dog wagon, plant birds, and make trips into town. Hoping we don't forget anyone—Dan DiMambro (some days Donnie DiMambro), Tom Davis, Diane Rakers and Peter Coppens. We would also like to thank our participants this year. We love having the faithful participate and also new faces. Thank you judges. Thank you to the President of Region 5, Peter Coppens. If it wasn't for his love and dedication to this sport there would not be a Region 5 Championship. Finally, thank you to Cha Hill, the site superintendent, Henry, Mike and Jason for all you do to make sure our trial runs successfully.

NGSPA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

The championship began with the Shooting Dog. It was capably judged by Aaron McAfee and Mike Poehler. The judges were presented with ten braces of quality dogs to watch. Thank you to the handlers Jim West and Rhonda Haukoos, Mr. and Mrs. Dan DiMambro (April Raber), Jay Wade, Kirk Loftin and Sherri Tangsrud.

The Running

Brace 1 was P J Wildfire's Little Lexi (Kirk Loftin) and Prairie Winds Chicoree's Kix Chic (Dan DiMambro). Lexi had a find at 6 with relocation, all manners in order. Chic had a find at 14 with Lexi backing. Chic was shorter with nice moves at times. Lexi had finds at 50 and 56. Chic was backing at 56. Lexi was fast and forward with reaching moves for her handler. Lexi showed forward at time.

Brace 2 was Lambourn's Showdown (Sam-Jim West) and Chicoree's Riden High Trixie (Dan DiMambro). Both dogs broke away very strong and to the front carding finds at 16 with all manners in order. Shooter made a fast snappy to the front move. Shooter was found standing at 20 and Trixie backing. All in order. Handler elected to pick up Shooter after a find at 20. Trixie continued forward hunting with easy handling, reaching and covering with a find at 54. This performance earned her the Champion for owner Jeff Alexander and handler Dan DiMambro.

Brace 3 was Chicoree's Country Star (Dan DiMambro) and Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee (Kirk Loftin). Both dogs broke away strong, fast, forward cast. Both dogs suffered an NP at 45 and handlers elected for a pick up.

Brace 4 was Beaver's Rude Memphis Slim (Jay Wade) and Cuttin Wild's Hank (Jim West). Slim broke away to card a find at 7. Slim was forward and hunting for the 1st 40 minutes and shortened up for the last 20. Hank ran fast and forward but not pleasing the handler and was



NGSPA Region 5 Open Shooting Dog Championship (back row): Mike Poehler (judge), Tom Davis, and Aaron McAfee.
(Front row): Dan DiMambro with Chicoree's Riden High Trixie and April Raber with Chicoree's Glitter and Gold.

picked up at 20.

Brace 5 was Chicoree's Glitter and Gold (Glitz–Dan DiMambro) and Uodibar's Lover Boy (Blue–Kirk Loftin). Both dogs were off and forward. Blue had a find at 17 with Glitz backing. All manners in order. Both dogs were casted off and found standing with Glitz pointed and Blue backing. Both dogs were hunting and running hard, showing forward with a find at 42. Glitz manners were all in order and Blue took some steps. Blue finished the hour. Glitz finished going forward and Donnie DiMambro and Glitz earned the runner-up Champion for her owner Fred Ryan.

Brace 6 was She's Something Else (Jim West) and King Kuhlmann Mr. Winston (Dan DiMambro). Winston was forward and found standing at 8 with Elsie backing. Both dogs had a nice start and forward. The quail gods interfered with the dogs. Jim picked up at 8 and Dan picked up at 38.

Brace 7 was Uodibar's Robbi Jo (Kirk Loftin) and Riverside Farms Luck Be A Lady (Dan DiMambro). Robbie Joe was gone to be found standing to the front with a find at 14. All manners in order. She was gone until tracker was requested at 45 by handler. Dee was gone and found standing at 25 with Robbie Jo backing. Both dogs were released to the front with Dee Carding a find at 33. Dee was more AA today and handler elected to pick up at 45.

Brace 8 was Cajan's Dancing Desire (Elsie–Jim West) and Slaterock's Mountain Heart (Rommel–Dan DiMambro). Rommel was found standing at 5. He was running big and making moves with speed and class. His find at 5 was like a statue with multiple birds flushed. Rommel was lost at 35 and handler asked for the tracker. Pieper showed a forward, quick ground race with nice hunting moves without any bird contact. Handler picked up at 40.

Brace 9 was Twin Creeks Running Rocky (Loftin) and Prairie Winds Made In The USA (Dan DiMambro). Mayda had a covey find at 8 with all manners in order. She made fast, snappy moves to tat second find at 15. Great, stylish manners. Handler asked for the tracker at 25. Rocky was "strokin' to the east and strokin' to the west" for Clarence Carter, with the handler calling for the tracker at 20.

Brace 10 was a bye brace with Hi N's Allison Miranda (Allie) with Kirk Loftin. Allie had a really nice ground race and application with 2 finds at 6 and 15. She finished the hour.

The judges announced Chicoree's Riden High Trixie who is owned by Jeff Alexander and handled by Dan DiMambro (April Raber) as the Champion. Chicoree's Glitter And Gold who is owned by Fred Ryan and was handled by Dan DiMambro (April Raber) was the runner-up. Both of these dogs were rewarded for their superior effort. Congratulations.

Pinckneyville, Ill., March 6

Judges: Aaron McAfee and Mike Poehler
NGSPA OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 12 German Shorthairs

Winner—CHICOREE'S RIDEN HIGH TRIXIE, 1685125, female, by Riden High Rudy–Chicoree's Sparkle In Her Eye. Randal Alexander, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.

Runner-Up—CHICOREE'S GLITTER AND GOLD, 1686474, female, by Chicoree's Immaculate–Chicoree's Country Fan. Fred Ryan, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.

NGSPA OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

We started the all-age on Wednesday, March 9th. First, I'd like to say thank you to Diane for handling the drawing, our judges, Tom Davis for driving the dog/horse wagon and Peter Coppens for planting birds. It was capably judged by Mike Poehler and Aaron McAfee. Twelve braces were drawn, but due to some cancelations the judges were presented with 5 braces of quality dogs to watch.

The Running

Brace 1 was Snowy River's Top Gun Maverick with Dan DiMambro and Rollin Thunder's Singin In with Jim West. Maverick and Singer break away strong. Maverick was found standing at 4 like a bull. Singer was gone until found stranding at 13 on a ten-bird covey with Maverick



NGSPA Region Open All-Age Championship (back row): Mike Poehler (judge), Tom Davis, and Aaron McAfee (judge) holding Charlotte. (Front row): Jim West with Cuttin Wild's Hank and Rhonda Haukoos with Rollin Thunder's Singin In.

backing. Dogs were released and Dan asked for the tracker at 44. Singer was found standing with styled class at 42 way off of birds. He finished strong and searched likely places. This performance earned Singer and Jim West the runner-up Champion.

Brace 2 was Cuttin Wild's Hank with Jim West and Evergreens Jed Clampet with Dan DiMambro. Jed was found at 4 with a nice find. Jed went on until 18 and not pleasing the handler and was picked up. Hank was fast and flinging to the front, standing at 18 with all manners in order. Hank continued with big moves and no let down in speed or application. He drew a harder course with going away at the hour. This earned Hank and West with the Championship with his performance.

Brace 3 was Lambourn's Surface Air Missile (Sam) with Jim West and High Standing Cuttin Edge (Woody) with Dan DiMambro. Sam made some nice moves forward to be seen at 8 on a hawk kill. Sam regained the front to a dug up find and it was another hawk kill at 19. He ran forward and was gone when the handler elected for the tracker at 35. Woody disappeared from the breakaway to the front not be seen under judgement again. Handler asked for the tracker.

Brace 4 was a bye brace with Rumel's Augie Doggie with Dan DiMambro. Augie started out slow and then ran strong forward to have a find at 12 with good style and manners all in place. He went forward and hard to the west requiring assistance. Handler decided to pick up at 32.

Brace 5 was a bye brace with Chicoree's Sparkling Ruby with Dan DiMambro. Ruby was wild and far flung making big moves early on. She became head strong and not pleasing the handler at 30. Handler elected to pick her up.

The judges announced Cuttin Wild's Hank who is owned by Chuck Costa and Todd Tuls and handled by Jim West (Rhonda Haukoos) as the Champion. Rollin Thunder's Signin In who is owned by Stephen Hetmanek and handled by Jim West (Rhonda Haukoos) was the runner-up. Both of these dogs were rewarded for their superior effort. Congratulations.

NGSPA REGION 5 OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 8 German Shorthairs

Winner—CUTTIN WILD HANK, 1680725, male, by Lambourn's Slick Shot—Cuttin Wild's Lil Angel. Chuck Costa & Todd Tuls, owners; Jim West, handler.

Runner-Up—ROLLIN THUNDER'S SINGIN IN, 1680831, male, by Keg Creek Trix or Treat—Rollin Thunder's Pocket Watch. Stephen Hetmanek, owner; Jim West, handler.

NGSPA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

The Amateur was judged by Rhonda Haukoos and Matt Basilone. We thank both of you for your time and expertise. We had 14 dogs and would like to thank all the Amateurs who support us.

The Running

Brace 1—Outbak's How You Doin' ("Joey"—owned/handled by Larry Bradley) and P J Wildfire's Little Lexi (owned/handled by Kirk Loftin). Lexi was found pointing at 6 with a find. All manners where in order. Joey and Lexi were off and forward. Joey and Lexi were stopped at 11 with Lexi backing. Joey and handler produced a hawk kill at 35. Lexi was found standing at 37, 43, and 57. Joey had his only find at 57. Lexi ran a nice shooting dog forward race and was rewarded Champion of the All- Breed Amateur.

Brace 2—Stoney Hill's Wildfire Sadie (owned/handled by Kirk Loftin) and No Limits Wildfire's Wildcard (owned/handled by John Landolina). Sadie and Joker made nice casts and at 28 Sadie had an unproductive. Joker was not pleasing the handler and he elected to pick up at 40. Sadie made some nice casts. At 50, Sadie was not pleasing the handler and was picked up.

Brace 3—Right Stuff's Rock N Roll ("Rock"— owned/handled by Billy Padovano) and Twin Creeks Running Ruger ("Rocky"—owned/handled by Kirk Loftin). Rock and Rocky were off to the front. Rocky was found pointing at 6. All manners in order. Both dogs were found to the front and picked up by their handlers at 20.



NGSPA Region 5 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (back row): Kirk Loftin, Matt Basilone (judge) and Rhonda Haukoos (judge).
(Back row): Rich Rodgers with P J Wildfire's Little Lexi and Sherri Tungrud with Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee.

Brace 4—Uodibar's Lover Boy ("Blue"—handled by Kirk Loftin/owned by Sherri Tangsrud) and Right Stuffs Warrior Princess ("Zena"—owned/handled by Billy Padovano). Blue and Zena were off and running strong with Blue carding a find at 38. Zena was found at 45 with a find. Blue picked up at 45 by handler. Zena was forward but not pleasing the handler and was picked up at 55.

Brace 5—Slick Wild Child ("Holly"—owned/handled by Richie Rodgers) and Robbie Jo (handled by Kirk Loftin owned/scouted by Sherri Tangsrud). Holly was big and forward with a back at 60. Robbie Jo had 3 finds at 26, 45 and 60. She ran a forward nice race.

Brace 6—Snowy Rivers So Far So ("Sofie"—owned/handled by Mike Kindler) and Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee (owned/handled by Kirk Loftin). Sofie broke away and was not pleasing the handler and he asked for the tracker at 24. Dee ran a strong, forward race with finds at 12, 18 and 26. She had an unproductive at 41. This performance earned Dee the title of runner-up in the Amateur Shooting Dog.

Champion was Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee who is owned/handled by Kirk Loftin and scouted by Sherri Tangsrud. Runner-up was Uodibar's Robbi Jo who is owned/scouted by Sherri Tangsrud and handled by Kirk Loftin. Congratulations!

Judges: Matt Basilone and Rhonda Hookeos
NGSPA REGION 5 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 12 German Shorthairs

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

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

NGSPA REGION 5 OPEN DERBY

The 2022 NGSPA Region 5 Derby was run on Thursday, March 10th,

at the Denmark Unit of Pyramid State Park near Pinckneyville, Ill. It was a sunny day with ideal conditions to run young dogs. The 13-dog competition was high in this stake and many of the dogs that did not receive nods in this stake could have won in other derby stakes. A big thank you to Rhonda Haukoos and Peter Coppens for their capable judging time.

The Running

Brace 1—Stoney Hill's Shining Star ("Reba"—Kirk Loftin) and Top Fuel's Bad Bad Leroy Brown (Dan DiMambro). Reba was gone from the break away and never seen again. Leroy was a shooting dog and handled well for handler. No bird contact for either dog.

Brace 2—Two Ponds Capsicum ("Pepper"—Dan DiMambro) and Monkeyshines Callme the Breeze ("Breezy"—April Raber). Pepper was short at times and tagging bracedmate. Breezy was tagged by bracedmate and stretched out and ran really well with a strong finish. Breezy was named the winner of the Region 5 Derby.

Brace 3—Monkeyshine's Southern Bell ("Frannie") and Nolimits Little Slick ("Diamond"—owned/handled by John Landolina). Frannie was wanting to tag and run with her bracedmate. Diamond ran an all-around race and handled kindly for her owner.

Brace 4—Top Fuel's Dirty White Girl ("Vada"—Dan DiMambro) and Stoneyhill's Remington Hotshot ("Shep"—Kirk Loftin). Vada was gone to the front at first and finished strong for her handler at time. Shep made a big castoff left on the beginning and handled kindly for handler with a strong finish to garner 2nd place.

Brace 5—Caprock's Bell's County Gamin ("Bella"—Dan DiMambro) and Vinny's Perfect Storm ("Addie"—owned and handled by Vinny Landolina). Both dogs started well and handled well for their handlers. Addie finished strong for her handler garnering 3rd place.

Brace 6—Two Ponds Blanco Roux (Dan DiMambro) and Vinny's High Roller ("Ripp"—owned and handled by Vinny Landolina). Roux was having difficulties with his handler constantly blowing whistle while handling. Brace was difficult for both dogs.

Brace 7 was a bye brace with Monkeyshine's Gus (April Raber).



NGSPA Region 5 Open Derby (back row): Dan DiMambro, Sherri Tungsrud, and Peter Coppens (judge). (Front row): April Raber with Monkeyshines Callme the Breeze, Kirk Loftin with Stoney Hill's Remington Hotshot, and Vinny Landolina with Vinny's Perfect Storm.

Gus handled kindly for April, running a small shooting dog race.

First place went to Monkeyshines Callme the Breeze, owned and handled by April Raber. Second place was awarded to Stoneyhill's Remington Hotshot, owned and handled by Kirk Loftin. Third place was earned by Vinny's Perfect Storm, owned and handled by Vinny Landolina.

Judges: Peter Coppens and Rhonda Haukoos
 NGSPA REGION 5 OPEN DERBY – 13 German Shorthairs

1st—MONKEYSHINES CALLME THE BREEZE, 1699127, female, by Riden High Rudy—Lena. Dan DiMambro & April Raber, owners; Dan DiMambro, handler.

2d—STONEYHILL'S REMINGTON HOTSHOT, unreg., male, by Hi N's Zip It—Stonehill's Living On the Edge. Kirk Loftin, owner and handler.

3d—VINNY'S PERFECT STORM, unreg., female, by Riden High Rudy—Hi N's Family Ties. Vinny Landolina, owner and handler.

NGPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Matt Basilone, Diane Rakers & Peter Coppens

Pinckneyville, Illinois | March 11, 2022

The National German Pointing Dog Association (NGPDA) Championships were held at Pyramid State Park, Demark Unit, in Southern Illinois. It is the 67th National Championship, 53rd National Shooting Dog Championship, and the 43rd Amateur Shooting Dog Championship held by the NGPDA.

The park has three courses on the Demark unit. Course one was not used due to the crossing not being safe, until the Shooting Dog. We had nice weather for this trial. Thanks to Diane for taking care of all the lunches, paperwork, organization, etc. Once again, the Amateur steak dinner was sponsored by Purina and we thank them for your support. It was a fun night and everyone enjoyed themselves.

This trial would not be possible without our sponsors. We would like to extend our great gratitude to Purina and SportDOG. Also, a shoutout to our SportDOG representative Jim Morehouse who has donated and

shown a great commitment to our sport. Jim also represents Purina and we appreciate all you do for us. Thank you to Greg Blair for making it so easy to work with Purina and shoutout to Terry Trzcinski for always supporting this trial and to Karl Gunzer who is with Purina. Without their help our dog trial would not be the same. Please support these companies.

A big thank you to the bird planters, Dan DiMambro and Peter Coppens. Also, thanks to Tom Davis and everyone for taking turns with the dog wagon and horse wagon. Everything runs great when the dogs/horses are at the line and ready to go on time. A national event doesn't work unless you have volunteer help from everyone. We appreciate the pros, amateurs, and all who attended the trial this year. This year we did not have a Derby due to time constraints.



NGPDA National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (back row): Kirk Loftin, Matt Basilone (judge), and Mike Patrick (judge).
(Front row): Sherri Tangsrud with P J Wildfire's Little Lexi and Rich Rodgers with Uodibar's Lover Boy.

NGPDA NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (By Matt Basilone)

The NGPDA Amateur Shooting Dog stake was held over March 12 and 13. Judges for this year's running were Mike Patrick and Matt Basilone. Both of them have years of experience, running and training bird dogs. We thank them both for their time and capable judging abilities. Peter Coppens served as the Stake Manager. Thank you all for your time and dedication. The weather was perfect for running dogs. Twelve dogs were entered for consideration of this prestigious National Amateur title in which German Shorthair Pointers and German Wirehair Pointers, Vizslas and Weimaraners can compete.

Crowned champion was P J Wildfire's Little Lexi, owned and handled by Kirk Loftin, and scouted by Sherri Tangsrud. Lexi ran in the first brace of the highly contested National Championship. Lexi was found standing at 6 to the front with a nonproductive. She was turned loose and found standing at 13. She made a big swing and was found standing at 30 on a covey. She was sent away again and you can see her making big moves where she was awarded again at 45. She was sent away and always reaching the front where she was found standing again at 60 on her last find.

This year's runner-up came from the second brace, Uodibar's Lover Boy owned by Sherri Tangsrud and handled by Kirk Loftin. Blue started out with his running shoes on making nice moves and was found standing at 21. Turned loose from there was backing his brace mate at 26. Blue went down the line from there and was awarded with another find at 30. Kirk turned Blue loose and made nice moves and was found standing at 45, all in order. Blue went on from there taking the country in and found standing at 52. From there Kirk sent Blue away making several nice moves and was seen going away at time.

Pinckneyville, Ill., March 11

Judges: Matt Basilone and Mike Patrick

NGPDA NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
[One-Hour Heats] – 12 German Shorthairs

Winner—P J WILDFIRE'S LITTLE LEXI, 1663717, female, by P J Wildfire's Little Bud–Lone Creek Sweet Anna. Kirk & Larry Loftin, owners; Kirk Loftin, handler.

Runner-Up—UODIBAR'S LOVER BOY, 1689423, male, by Diamonds R S Texas Express–Uodibar's Bet Your Booty. Sherry Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.

NGPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (By Diane Rakers)

The NGPDA National All-Age Championship was run March 13-14, 2022, on the Demark Unit of Pyramid State Park in Pinckneyville, IL. Judges were Mike Kindler and Alan Benson. We thank you both for your dedication. Weather was great this year.

The Running

Brace 1—Top dog was Rumel's Augie Doggie who is owned by Checklick/Turano and handled by Dan DiMambro. Augie had a find at 16. Manners were all in order. He was strong and to the front. The tracker had to be pulled out at 50.

Bottom Dog was Keg Creek Royalty who is owned/handled by Rich Rodgers. Knight had a fail to back at 16 and was picked up.

Brace 2—Top Dog was Gemma who is owned and handled by Mike Patrick. Gemma had a very powerful, forward run. She had three beautiful finds with all manners in order at 32, 42, and 49. At time the handler was given time to find her, but eventually had to call for the tracker.

Bottom Dog was Twin Creeks Runnin Rocky who is owned and handled by Kirk Loftin. Rocky had a strong run, but failed to back at 32 and was picked up.

Brace 3—Top Dog was Evergreens Jed Clampet who is owned by Lance Olsen and handled by Dan DiMambro. Jed was strong and forward. He had finds at 5, 32, and 42 with all manners in order. Jed was named the Champion of this stake.

Bottom Dog was Rebel who is owned and handled by Mike Patrick.



NGPDA National Championship (back row): Mike Kindler (judge), Dan DiMambro, Alan Benson (judge), and Kirk Loftin. (Front row): April Raber with Evergreen's Jed and Sherri Tangsrud with Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee.

Rebel had a back at 42. He was found standing in Orchard with a find, but turned out to be a hawk kill. Rebel went on to finish.

Brace 4 —Top Dog was Snowy River's Top Gun Maverick who is owned by Greg Hellbusch and handled by Dan DiMambro. Maverick had a strong run. He had a find at 5 in the orchard and a find at 15. The bird eventual flew right over his head and in turn he was pick up.

Bottom Dog was Hi N's Allison Miranda, owned and handled by Kirk Loftin. Allie had a strong cast off. She was seen at 3, then lost. Tracker was called for by the handler.

Brace 5—Top dog was Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee who is owned and handled by Kirk Loftin. Dee had good ground cover. She had finds at 15, 30, 40 and 49. All manners in order. Dee was named runner-up for this effort.

Bottom dog was Chicoree's Sparkling Ruby who is owned by Fred Ryan and handled by Dan DiMambro. Ruby had backs at 15 and 30. The handler opted to pick up.

Brace 6—Top Dog was High Standing Cuttin Edge who is owned by Anthony and Dana Rusciano, and handled by Dan DiMambro. Woody started out with a strong, forward run. He had a NP at 30. Later he was not pleasing the handler and was picked up.

Bottom dog was Uodibar's Keystone Cowboy who is owned and handled by Kirk Loftin. Cowboy had a find at 12 and moved on his birds. He was picked up.

Congratulations

The 2022 NGPDA National Champion was Evergreen's Jed who is owned by Lance Olsen, handled by Dan DiMambro, and scouted by April Raber.

The 2022 NGPDA Runner-Up National Champion was Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee who is owned and handled by Kirk Loftin, and scouted by Sherri Tangsrud.

Judges: Alan Benson and Mike Kindler
 NGPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
 [One-Hour Heats] – 12 German Shorthairs

Winner—EVERGREEN'S JED, 1676169, male, by Trublu's B D C Ace Inthe Hole—Chicoree's What A Hoodlum. Lance Olsen, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.

Runner-Up—STONEY HILL'S PINNACLE DEE, 1694168, female, by Simon's Gunner—Shadowrocks Mighty Mouse. Kirk Loftin, owner and handler.

NGPDA NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (By Peter Coppens)

The NGPDA Nation Open Shooting Dog Championship was run on March 14 and 15, 2022, on the Demark Unit of Pyramid State Park in Pinckneyville, Ill. We decided to use all three courses for the stake; with all the mowing and burning completed, the creek crossings were down. This allowed us to start and finish at the clubhouse area. Judges were Alan Benson and Peter Coppens. We thank you both for your dedication. Weather was quite pleasant this year and added to great comradery.

The Running

Brace 1—Uodibar's Robbi Jo with Kirk Loftin and Chicoree's Riden High Trixie with Dan DiMambro. Both dogs were released and found standing at 10 with divided find. Dogs were released and gone to the front with Robbi Jo pointing at 30 and Trixie backing. All manners in order. Both dogs were gone. Loftin asked for the tracker at 40. Trixie ran a good shooting dog race and had another find at 56. Dan let Trixie go away to the front until time was called. This performance earned her the 2022 Championship.

Brace 2—Riverside Farm Luck be a Lady (Dee) with Dan DiMambro



NGPDA Open Shooting Dog Championship (back row): Alan Benson (judge), Dan DiMambro, and Peter Coppens (judge).
(Front row): April Raber with Chicoree's Riden High Trixie and Kirk Loftin with Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee.

and Uodibar's Lover Boy ("Blue") with Kirk Loftin. Both dogs broke away hard and to the front. Blue had a find at 10. Both handlers asked for the trackers at 30.

Brace 3—Twin Creeks Running Rocky with Loftin and Chicoree's Country Star with Dan DiMambro. Both dogs broke away with Rocky having a find and Star backing. All manners were in order. Dogs were released with Rocky found standing for his second find and Star Backing. Rocky went on to finish the hour. Star had a nonproductive at 55 and finished the hour.

Brace 4—Hi N's Allison Miranda ("Allie") with Kirk Loftin and Prairie Wind Made In The USA ("Mayda"). Allie and Mayda were released and Allie was found on point with Mayda backing. Both dogs were gone and handlers asked for the trackers.

Brace 5—Slaterock's Mountain Heart ("Rommel") with Dan DiMambro and P J Wildfire's Little Lexi with Kirk Loftin. Both dogs were released and found standing by the big cedar tree. Rommel pointed and Lexi backed. Dan produced only feathers. Lexi was picked up by her handler. Rommel was forward for the next 20 min. and was gone. Handler asked for the tracker.

Brace 6—Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee with Kirk Loftin and Prairie Wind Chicoree's Kix Chic. Both dogs broke away and were found standing with a divided find at 8. Dogs were released and found standing again. Dee pointed at 25 and Chic backed. Chick had a find at 45. Chic finished the hour and was pushing Dee for runner-up. Dee was found standing at 50 and all manners were in order. Dee was released and finished with a nice shooting dog race earning her Runner-Up Champion.

Brace 7 was a bye brace with Chicoree's Glitter and Gold with Dan DiMambro. Glitz had a find at 10. She had a nice all-around shooting dog race and finished the hour.

Champion was Chicoree's Riden High Trixie who is owned by Jeff Alexander, handled by Dan DiMambro, and scouted by April Raber.

Runner-Up was Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee who is owned and handled by Kirk Loftin, and scouted by Sherri Tangsrud.

This concluded the running of the 2022 National German Pointing Dog Association's Championship. We hope to see all of you and looking forward to all the possibilities for next year!

Judges: Alan D. Benson and Peter Coppens
NGPDA NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 13 German Shorthairs

Winner—CHICOREE'S RIDEN HIGH TRIXIE, 1685125, female, by Riden High Rudy—Chicoree's Sparkle In Her Eye. Rondal Alexander, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.

Runner-Up—STONEY HILL'S PINNACLE DEE, 1694168, female, by Simon's Gunner—Shadowrocks Mighty Mouse. Kirk Loftin, owner and handler.

We'd like to acknowledge famed photographer Chris Mathan for the May cover photo of Confident Nation.

To see more of her work, visit:
www.chrismathansportingdogs.com

CENTRAL PRAIRIE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

By Dan Crunk | Orchardville, Illinois | March 13, 2022

The old phrase, "What a difference a day makes" was never truer. On Saturday, the high temperature was maybe 22 and gusty winds all day long. On Sunday when the trial was over, the temperature was in the 60s. Actually, the dogs did not mind the 20s as much as the handlers and judges. Daylight savings time kicked in, yet everyone still got to the trial on time and we started at the scheduled time.

Thanks to the Ellises for use of their farm to hold our trials. This farm allows us to run two courses at the same time, which is so helpful with trials with a big entry. Judges for the day were Rick Stanford, Dan Hampton, Brad Hargis, and Dan Crunk. Rick and Dan Hampton judged the shooting dog, derby and gun dog while Brad and Dan Crunk judged the puppies. Jae Crunk put together sandwiches for lunch. Good judges, good grounds and a good lunch are all ingredients for a successful trial.

Entries were down again and I guess this is just a sign of the times. Two young handlers ran dogs. Declan Wheat ran his grandfather's gun dog and John Ellis ran a nice puppy. Declan's grandfather, Frank Christie, indicated that Declan was hooked.

A special thanks to Purina and Gun Dog Supply for their continued support of field trials. Their support definitely adds to the quality of field trials.

In the Amateur Shooting Dog Craig Hiatt piloted "Roxie", pointer female, to a first place finish. Roxie must like Orchardville, because I believe this is her third straight win on these grounds. Roxie had 6 finds in her half-hour and really had a great race, always to the front and going to the spots that are holding quail. And for the third straight trial Danny Draffen's pointer male "Red" finished second. Red had four finds and a huge race. Although Roxie has finished first each time in front of Red, it has always been close. Ken Black came down and brought his Deuce pointer male to the trial and left with a third place finish. Deuce had 4 finds for her 30 minutes and a solid race.

The largest entry for the day was the Amateur Derby. Jack Glover again won the Derby with his setter female. "Pepper" had two broke finds and a great race. She ran big but still handled for her handler. Steve Fuess piloted his setter male "Rip" to a second place finish. Rip had 4 broke finds and filled up the country. J.D. Waters' pointer male "Buck" took home third place with a pleasing race and two finds. The Derby stake was filled with entries that showed a lot of promises.

The Puppy stake only had six entries, but the quality of these six was wonderful. Jack Glover again repeated from Saturday with pointer female "Liza". This entry filled the country and was so attractive on the ground. Running as big as she did in the 20 minutes, she still was in sync with her handler. Finishing a very close second was "Bert", setter male, for Steve Fuess. This setter also ran the course big, yet listening and handling for his handler. Third place went to "Ty" for Charles Bowlin. Ty shows a lot of promise and certainly filled up the course.

This script has never seen what happened in the Gun Dog stake. Craig Hiatt entered a young pointer female "Sadie" in this stake and what makes this amazing is she has only three legs. She had lost her leg in an accident earlier in the year. Sadie had 3 finds that met shooting/gun dog standards. Second place went to "Jack", Irish setter male, for David McCuan. Jack had 3 finds in his brace and always hunted to the front. Third place went to youth handler Declan Wheat with "Patch", pointer male. Patch had 3 finds and a strong race. Declan's grandfather Frank Christie was so pleased that his grandson enjoyed handling Patch the last two days in field trials.

Thanks to all handlers and volunteers for coming to our spring trial.

Hope to see you the second weekend in November.

Orchardville, Ill., March 13 – One Course
Judges: Dan Hampton and Rick Stanford
NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 4 Pointers, 1 Setter
and 1 Irish Setter

1st—CRAIG'S RUNIN ROXIE, 1665573, pointer female, by Mac's Silver Dollar–Milo Southern Tea. Craig Hiatt, owner and handler.

2d—DOUBLE D'S RED LANCELOT, 1675702, pointer male, by Double D's Sir Galahad–Parsley's Wild Injustice. Danny Draffen, owner and handler.

3d—CROW CREEK DEUCE, 1664316, pointer female, by Brown's Brute Justice–Crow Creek Sugarbaby. Ken Black, owner and handler.

NBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Pointers, 3 Setters and 1 Irish Setter

1st—GLOVER'S PEPPER SHAKER, 1695618, setter female, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way–C C Erin O'Shamrock. Jack Glover owner and handler.

2d—ELM HILLS LONGBLACK TRAIN, 1692548, setter male, by Swift Rock Jetson–Black Jet. Steve E. & Jeri Fuess, owners; Steve Fuess, handler.

3d—MY WAY BIG TRAIL, 1696063, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior–Sparked Agin. J. D. Waters, owner and handler.

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 4 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—CRAIG'S SASSIE SADIE, 1690033, pointer female, by Greypointe–Izquierda–You Never Can Tell. Craig Hiatt, owner and handler.

2d—MYTHODICAL KILLAGAIN FLUSH, 1691900, Irish setter male, by Mythodical Astronomical IQ–Lowe's Celtic Jewel. Dave McCuan, owner and handler.

3d—CHRISTIE'S ILLINI PATCH, 1672088, pointer male, by Christie's Illini Juice–Macoupin Deb. Frank Christie, owner; Declan Wheat, handler.

NBHA AMATEUR PUPPY – 4 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—GLOVER'S LIZA MENELLI, 1695569, pointer female, by Hirollins Gone and Doneit–Crimson River Emerald. Jack Glover, owner and handler.

2d—ELM HILLS BOJANGLE BRET, 1697138, setter male, by Woodsway's Bojangles–High Price Kallie. Steve & Jeri Fuess, owners; Steve Fuess, handler.

3d—BOWLIN'S HONKY TONK TYLER, 1698025, pointer male, by Bowlin's Honky Tonk Willie–Road Rash Roxy. Charles R. Bowlin, owner and handler.

INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP

Kissamee Grousewoods Tea wins 2022 Running

By Russell Ogilvie | Exeter, Rhode Island | March 19, 2022

The 2022 International Amateur Woodcock Champion came out of the seventh brace. Grousewoods Tea (PF) owned and handled by Peter Labella was braced with Spring Brook Maximus (Ogilvie). With the dogs at the line on Pine Top on this cool morning, the judges gave the “turn ‘em loose” command and the second day of the trial was started. Daisy, a sleek and fancy going pointer charged out of the gate with Max at her side. The bells faded into the distance as it seemed for a moment that they may not return. In short order the bells returned and both dogs peeled of and went to work. Daisy took the field edge at the first turn and Max went down to the right of the course. Daisy’s bell fell silent first at 5:00 on the edge of the field. Labella was unable to move a bird for her and took her on. Max would have the next stop at 10:00 in a green briar tangle. A lengthy flushing attempt led to the first find of the brace. With the dogs back on course and headed down the hill, Daisy seemed to float through the cover with Max driving hard. Max’s bell fell silent again at 26:00 with Daisy coming in to honor. After all were ready, Ogilvie walked into the young pines and sent a woodcock fluttering out. The dogs were returned to the course and sent on. Just before the lower field, both dogs entered the left edge and their bells fell silent. Daisy standing like a statue was located first, with Max a little deeper in at 37:00. As both handlers flush, Labella sent the woodcock into the air first and a divided find was recorded. Both dogs were collared and let loose across the field going hard. With time ticking down, Daisy sailed through the open woods working the front. Both dogs would cap of a great run with Daisy’s bell stopping deep to the front at 57:00 and Max’s stopping just after. As Ogilvie searched for Max, he located Daisy in the edge of the pines, head cranked, tail poker straight, and sucking scent. Max was located to the right by his scout. At the report of the guns, time was called the judges new Daisy had set the bar high and would be tough to beat.

The Runner-Up Champion came out of the third brace on the bridge course. Little Miss Margaret, owned and handled by Tim Cavanaugh, was braced with Braeval Ghillie (McCluskey). The young pointer and setter tore off down the trail. Maggie, a classy going pointer, has developed quickly through the combination of quality breeding and Cavanaugh’s dedication to the sport. Both dogs burned up some excess energy early. As we made the turn back along the river, Ghillie was the first to stop at 13:00 in the open. As McCluskey approached, Ghillie first looked unsure and then tightened upon his arrival. The handler stepped in front and the woodcock fluttered away. Maggie, moving forward, settled in and hunted hard. Both dogs’ bells fell silent at 20:00. Maggie was on one side of a group of young pines and Ghillie on the other side. With both handlers flushing, McCluskey was able to get the bird into the air and record his second find. With both dogs rolling along, the handlers quickly crossed the road and headed for second part of the course. Nothing was produced near the wet holes or at the beginning on field. Maggie, running out of time, dove into the right of the field just before the road and slammed on point at 52:00 for all to see. With the bird lifting in front of her nose, she never twitched even a hair. Both dogs went across the road and finished going away.

I know I have mentioned this in the past, probably every time I report a trial that I run in Arcadia, but I firmly believe that it has to be one of the best places to run a spring wild bird cover dog trial. With the numbers of migrating woodcock, in excessive of 40+ scene in two days of running, the dogs had opportunities. That doesn’t mean they didn’t have to work. Dogs have to adapt to the bird cover and be willing to plow through green briar if needed. As with any championship, the top dogs do. With the open terrain, it is a great venue for a gallery to walk and be a part of the excitement. This quality trial could only happen with all the

pieces of the puzzle put together. We would like to thank the AFTCA, Frank LaNasa and Piper Huffman, for their support and handling of the draw. Our region truly appreciates the opportunity to host an event of this stature. Purina and Greg Blair with their continuous support of all field trials. This past year, the Fish and Wildlife Department did really great work in brush hogging the fields and paths to knock back some of the green briars. A thanks to Bob Fleury in working with Will Walker and the Forest Service to acquire the use permits. Thanks goes out to Lanny Dellinger and John Stolgitis for marking and trimming the course. Lunches this year were donated by the South County Field Trial Club. At the end of Saturday’s running, Jill Stolgitis opened up her home and provided dinner. A task that just a “thank you” is never enough. Even with the challenging economy, amateurs came from far and wide to get a shot at a championship of this caliber. The support from pro trainers such as Bob Little and John Stolgitis goes to show how important this championship is and the history that goes with it. Of course, everyone wants to thank the judges, Adam Dubriske and Billy Bonnetti, for their careful consideration on every brace. They had several long conversations after time was called. A final thanks to all involved, it is really appreciated.

THE RUNNING

Brace 1—Chasehill Poison Ivy (Raiano) and Springbrook Sweet T (Ogilvie) broke away at Pine Top to start the championship with a strong gallery in tow. With migrating woodcock, a number of things have to fall into place to have significant numbers. With just 5 minutes in, T stopped at the first turn with Ivy coming in just after. The first woodcock was walked up in the path. When the dogs were found, T had let up but Ivy still was tight and bird was flown of her noise. The dogs were returned to the course. Ivy would quickly stop again at 6:00 near the stone wall but nothing could be produced. Both dogs cruised through the course and down the hill. Ivy would take another unproductive at 30:00. Ivy and T scored at 34:00 with another find. T would suffer unproductives at 48:00 and 50:00.

Brace 2—Cairds Little Macy Mae (Henderson) and Snuffmill Life Of Riley (Dellinger) had the first go around on Cemetery. Both dogs worked through the green briar and rhododendron but could not dig up a bird. Riley stopped at 35:00 with Macey honoring but nothing could be produced.

Brace 3—Previously mentioned.

Brace 4—Shirley Saratoga Britt (Shirley) and Duck Hook (Flewelling) had the second go around on Pine Top. Toga went to work quickly with a stop at 4:00. Shirley quickly produced a pair of birds for his dog. Toga was returned to the course and stopped at 6:00. Shirley plowed through the briars to flush the woodcock right off the dog’s nose. While this was all going on, Brute was gliding through the cover in search of his own birds. Brute’s bell fell silent at 23:00 with Toga coming in for the back. Flewelling sent the bird skyward and he had his first find of the trial. Toga went back to work and stopped at 31:00 with another find. This brit knows how to find birds as he nailed another at 35:00. Brute got back into the mix again when he and Toga stopped at 43:00 with a divided find. Brute would finish his hour strong and Toga hustled to the end.

Brace 5—Long Gone Hatfield (Kennedy) and Elmer’s Always Been Crazy (Henderson) took off too the briars. Both dogs did not have any luck on the field edges. They swung back through the rhododendrons



(Front row): Owner/handler Peter Labella, John Olson with Kissamee Grousewoods Tea, John Stolgitis, and Tim Cavanaugh with Little Miss Margaret.
 (Back row): Eric Rizza, Gregory McClusky, B. J. Cassio, Alan Raiano, Adam Dubriske (judge), Bill Bonnetti (judge), Bob Little, Donald Henderson, and Mike Flewelling.

and Hatty dove down to the left and her bell stopped at 15:00. Kennedy located her dog in a seep near the road and was able to produce a bird with all in order. Both dogs would cross the road and Hatty would stop to the right. Kennedy was unable to produce a bird this time. Elmer moved forward and was rewarded two times just before the cemetery. He had a bird at 34:00 and another at 41:00. Elmer would finish with a moderate race.

Brace 6—The last brace of the day ended on the Bridge course. Wizard's Cas Dubh (Hathaway) shared the course with Bluecreek Pearl (Raiano). Both dogs ran well and covered a lot of ground but both went bird less.

Brace 7—Mentioned earlier.

Brace 8—The morning run of Cemetery included Sweet Southern Belle (Henderson) and Witch City Charlie (Hathaway). Belle is owned by Jonathan Wilkins of New Brunswick. Charlie is owned by Steve Levesque. Henderson and Hathaway turned the dogs loose. Belle stopped quickly at 4:00 for Henderson on the edge of the course in a nasty briar tangle. Henderson, also from New Brunswick, attempted to get a bird up but the thrashing of briars was too much for Belle and she took some steps which ended her day. Charlie would have the course to himself. He hunted well and was rewarded with a find at 39:00. However, not having a bracemate may have hindered his run and was picked up at the cemetery.

Brace 9—Little Miss Bella (Cavanaugh) and Braeval Bearcat Laddie (McCluskey) had another go at the bridge course. Both dogs made it to the turn. Bella's bell stopped at 14:00 near the stream but Cavanaugh could not produce a bird. Laddie went forward and had a stop near

some young pines at 14:00 and started up before the handler could reach him. Bella was making her way to the front when the sound of Laddie's bell was lost. Bella crossed the course and stopped right before a bird got up. The scout stood by Bella as the handler made his way up. McCluskey and his scout continued to search for Laddie but were having trouble. After Cavanaugh fired and was taking Bella back to the course, the second judge noticed a bit of color and after closer investigation, Laddie was found buried in the brush behind a blowdown. McCluskey fired and both dogs were credited with a find at 31:00. Both dogs went forward and across the road, Bella had her second unproductive at 33:00 and then a find on a pair of woodcock at 50:00. Both dogs were picked up at the road.

Brace 10—The final brace of the championship was between Harwich Indian Creek Buck (Olson) and Boomer of Blackwater (Flewelling). Buck covered his course but went birdless. Boomer ran strong and hunted well, but he too went birdless.

Exeter, R.I., March 19

Judges: Adam Dubriske and Bill Bonnetti
 INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP
 [One-Hour Heats] – 11 Pointers, 7 Setters and 2 Brittans

Winner—KISSAMEE GROUSEWOODS TEA, 1672676, pointer female, by Daddy's Little Boy Butch—Porter Meadow Bette. Peter LaBella, owner and handler.

Runner-Up—LITTLE MISS MARGARET, 1693526, pointer female, by Panola Bacon—Chasehill Little Izzy. Tim Cavanaugh, owner and handler.

REGION 17 BRITTANY AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Arrow's Tequila Rustler named Champion

By Terry Gowin | Eureka, Kansas | March 19, 2022

Twenty-two dogs came to the line for this year's running, with judges Bruce Bryant and Ken Sanderson in the saddle to adjudicate their performances. We thank them for their time and their attention to each performance. Many members of the Southern Kansas Brittany Club were on hand to make the running of this event possible—Herb Rea, Terry Gowin, Matt Harris, Trasa Fowler, Nathan Hopper, Rick Wheeler, and Scott Johnson—worked hard all week to keep things rolling along;

we thank them all for their efforts!

We could not begin to have a competition of this quality without the generous hospitality of our hosts, Mary Lynn and Bill Oliver. Their beautiful ranch is a combination of wide open fields, wooded draws and rocky mesas, presenting challenging courses for the dogs to search for game under challenging atmospheric conditions. Blowing winds and



Region 17 Brittany Amateur All-Age Championship (from left): Bruce Bryant (judge), Mike Poehler with Arrow's Tequila Rustler, Richard Beaver, Matt Harris, Ken Sanderson (judge), Robbie Myers with El Grande, Scott Johnson, Brittany Myers, and Terry Gowin.

varied humidity, made finding and pointing game difficult and caused the birds to be jumpy at times. Multiple covey finds on released and wild quail provided regular excitement as handlers went to flush for their charges.

These events would not be possible without the support of our sponsor Purina for providing their Sport Formula Dog Food for each placing dog, as well as continued financial support to make this sport that we love possible. We are truly grateful to this fine company for their continued support of our events.

This year's winner was Arrow's Tequila Rustler, handled by Richard Beaver. Rusty ran in the third brace carding one spectacular find. He laid down a smooth, forward run with an efficient and pleasing flow to his pattern. His punch to the front into the wind caught the judges' eyes as did his most memorable move; a big forward sweep of the Hay Meadow Bowl along the entire base of the Mesa towards the High Post Gate area, then dropping down into a wooded draw taking it deep to the south and found standing at 50 minutes on a find where few others had ventured, which sealed the Championship.

Runner-up honors went to El Grande, handled by Robbie Myers. Truman broke away into a stout wind yet stayed forward and running well despite the conditions. He made a western reaching move to drop into the Windmill Canyon section, then ran the fence line of the Hay Meadow area to card a baren stand at 23 in some scrub nearing the pond. Moving on, Truman worked the draw area past the High Post Gate with a pleasing flow and pattern, hunting hard the rest of the brace to stand at 50 minutes past the fence corner in a deep draw of the Eastern Bowl as we headed towards camp. His hour expired near the weekend breakaway location.

A Montana Silversmith Trophy Buckle was presented to the handlers of our Champion and Runner-Up.

Third place was awarded to B and T's Sonndance Kid Rock, handled by Trasa Fowler. Rocky broke away into a strong headwind which messed with his pattern early. His pattern grew and improved approaching the Windmill Canyon area, through the Flat Rock Crossing. He was standing for his first find at 24 with nice style and

intensity, prior to the crossing above the Watershed. He worked nicely for the remainder of his hour, carding a stop to flush at 48 and his final find coming in a deep draw of the Bowl Section nearest camp at 53, with time expiring approaching the weekend break away.

Fourth place went to Just Call Me Lucky Ned Pepper, handled by Frank Campbell. Ned was running hard early with a nice application that was mostly forward. As noted by the judges, he was pushed through the section after the Flat Rock Crossing to the entrance of the Hay Meadow Bowl, then worked nicely there to stand his first find at 31. Ned carded his second at 38 near the exit toward the High Post Gate, working the field below nicely. Ned had a stop to flush at 48 at the entrance to the Bowl Section nearest camp, slowing some towards the end of the hour.

THE RUNNING

"Sassy" (Robbie Myers) and "BB" (Nick Blasi). Sassy was fun to watch and had 4 evenly spaced finds with nice range and pattern throughout her hour; she displayed solid bird work. Had she not slowed some towards the end, she'd have most likely changed up the placements. BB had a nice, forward run that flowed well with eye catching moves, carding solid finds at 13 and 29. A third find at 30 requiring a relocation was the undoing to her solid bid.

"Chica" (Richard Beaver) and "Timber" (Rick Hastings). Chica displayed nice range and ground speed moving nicely through the Watershed and Hay Meadow areas, with a back at 27, a find at 36 minutes and stood again at 40 where she succumbed to temptation. Timber's run was one that thoroughly covered the likely places and produced lots of bird work. He carded finds at 16, 27, 42, 46 and 49 with a nice back at 36.

"Rusty" (Richard Beaver) and "Bud" (Frank Campbell). Rusty's winning performance is detailed above. Bud ran well, had an attractive way of going and initiated several nice moves over the hour, but he was birdless for his efforts.

"K D" (Steven Foster) and "Hatch" (Adam Freeman). This pair broke away greeting each other with enthusiasm due to their recent breeding.

Love 'em and leave 'em Hatch then flew to the front with a powerful, far flung run, that explored the boundaries of the course. K D worked well through the flat top field and dropped down into the Windmill Canyon with speed and purpose when a failed stop to flush ended her day at 12 prior to the Flat Rock Crossing. Hatch ran hard, eating up ground and hunting diligently, with no bird for his efforts, a performance worthy of a placement for sure.

“Coal” (John Perry) and “Colt” (Vince Anderson). Coal was consistently forward, making many nice moves, hunting hard and searching the likely places throughout his hour with no creditable find for his efforts; a bird probably would have pushed the placing dogs. Colt had some difficulty getting lined out early, then did some nice work into the Windmill Canyon and really stretched in the Hay Meadow Bowl along the base of the Mesa to drop into the next to last draw there. He too finished his hour without a bird for his efforts.

Brace 6a—“Remi” (Rick Hastings) and “Dottie” (Nick Blasi). Remi took a while to get lined out with her run and application growing over time. She laid down a very nice middle part of the hour, with a find at 19, a back at 53 and a baren stand with relocation coming at 59. Dotti put down a nice run with some big moves reaching forward, using the wind accurately and hunting the right places. She had a nice find with style at 35, a baren stand at 40, a stop to flush at 50 and a final find at 53 with a breach of manners ending her bid there.

Brace 7a—“Rey” (Joanne Perry) and “Rascal” (Rick Hastings). Rey was wide early and grew in pattern and application with nice moves through the Windmill Canyon. She carried a reaching line past the Watershed area, into the Hay Meadow Bowl along the base of the Mesa there to be found standing at 27 with nice style. After the field below the High Post Gate, the string broke with the Tracker being called for at 57. Rascal put it all together past the Windmill Canyon, growing past the Watershed Area and into the East Bowl after the High Post Gate. He carded finds at 33, 39 and lastly at 51 with a nice back and a stop to flush during the hour.

“Rocky” (Trasa Fowler) and “Bo” (Amy Hopper). This pair broke away with purpose into a stiff wind. Rocky’s third place run was detailed previously. Bo ran hard, fast, and forward during his bid, doing a very

nice job from above the Watershed Area, driving into the Bowl of the Hay Meadow section to suffer an infraction on a bird below the Mesa there at 31 minutes to end a promising performance.

“Hank” (Mike Poehler) and “Ned” (Frank Campbell). Both dogs broke away hard into a stiff wind. Ned’s fourth place performance was detailed previously. Hank reached forward and wide and (according to the judges) stretched to places few went early. He entered the Windmill Canyon far to the West and dropped down and across the Flat Rock Crossing to stand in the trees on the left at 14. Upon the shot, another bird popped into a tree with Hank ending his bid to better see it!

“Truman” (Robbie Myers) and “Arrow” (Rick Hastings). Truman’s second place performance was detailed previously. Arrow had difficulty with the strong wind effecting his run and pattern. He carded nice finds at 28, 29 and 32 with a baren stand at 40. He did a very nice job in the Windmill Canyon and hunted well along the base of the Mesa of the Hay Meadow Bowl where he carded all his finds.

“Annie” (Terry Gowin) and “Jessie” (Harlan Gerardy). This pair broke away into what was likely the stiffest wind of the stake. They did much better upon reaching the Windmill Canyon and worked well from there, past the Flat Rock Crossing to find Annie pointed at 18 with Jessie backing nicely. A breach of manners ended Annie’s bid; Jessie moved on into the Hay Meadow Bowl. Below the Mesa and trees there, Jessie was judged under a bird at 24 to end her day early.

Eureka, Kan., March 19

Judges: Bruce Bryant and Ken Sanderson

REGION 17 BRITTANY AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 22 Brittanys

Winner—ARROW’S TEQUILA RUSTLER, 1658864, male, by Beaver’s Straight Arrow—Runner’s Tequila Rose. Sandy Becker, owner; Richard Beaver, handler.

Runner-Up—EL GRANDE, 1697401, male, by Cowboy Way—Special Hope. Robert R. Myers & Rob Rohner, owners; Robbie Myers, handler.

NORTH CAROLINA OPEN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

Touch’s Malcolm Story named Champion

By Derek Bonner | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 20, 2022

The North Carolina Open Quail Championship ran its 2022 trial on the beautiful field trial grounds at Hoffman, N.C. Great weather accompanied this year’s championship for all three days of the running.

The Quail Championship is always the last all-age trial for the season at Hoffman, and many times this late in the season the birds have been known to be hard to come by. That however was not the case with this year’s running, having recorded 15 finds under judgement in 16 braces ran. As one handler noted, “Just the right amount of birds for an all-age trial.” We are grateful to the efforts of Lefty Henry and John Ivester on the bird program this season.

The judges were Johnny Atkinson of Marion, S.C., and Grayson Francis of Brookneal, Va. These two men are experienced, and highly respected in the field trial world. We thank them for their time and attention to each entry.

With plenty of birds being pointed it gave the judges several worthy performances to choose from. When it was all said and done the judges chose Touch’s Malcolm Story as Champion. Malcolm Story was

handled by Jerry Raynor in the absence of Mark McLean, who was home suffering from a stomach virus. Raynor handled Malcolm Story for owner Alex Rickert from Bozeman, Mont. Story had two finds and an all-age race worthy of an all age-title!

Runner-Up Champion was K H Game Weapon handled by Derek Bonner. Bonner handled for owner Scott Griffin who normally runs Weapon, but Scott was unable to attend on this day in anticipation of his first grandchild. Game Weapon had two finds, a good race, and big finish earning him the title!

Thanks to the following individuals who made this trial possible: Randy and Marcia Bradshaw; Sammy and Nida Giddens; Debbie Bonner; Austin Bonner; Scott Griffin; Larry Cox; John Ivester; Alford Wood; and Chad Adams.

As always a great big thanks goes to Greg Blair and the folks at Purina for their continued support of the North Carolina Quail Championship!



North Carolina Open Quail Championship (first row): Handler Jerry Raynor, Carl Owens with Touch's Malcolm Story, handler Derek Bonner, and Scott Griffin with K H Game Weapon. (Second row): Haily Moreland, Randy Bradshaw, John Hicks, and Judd Carlton. (Third row): Alford Wood, Cain Bradshaw, Johnny Atkinson (judge), Grayson Francis (judge), and Larry Cox. (Fourth row): Ray Joye and Jim Emerson.

Hoffman, N. C., March 20

Judges: Johnny Atkinson and Grayson Francis
NORTH CAROLINA OPEN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP
 [One-Hour Heats] – 31 Pointers and 5 Setters

Winner—TOUCH'S MALCOLM STORY, 1675103, pointer male, by Touch's Knight Rider–Blackhawk's Sunflower. Alex Rickert, owner; Jerry Raynor, handler.

Runner-Up—K H GAME WEAPON, 1681728, pointer male, by Cole Train–Pandora C. Scott Griffin, owner; Derek Bonner, handler.

For more field trial news and updates, visit:
www.americanfield.com

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP

Jerry On Fire named Champion

By John Stolgitis | Arcadia, Rhode Island | March 21, 2022

The earliest wild bird trials held in New England occurred in Arcadia, R.I., in the late 1920s. Fast forward to the year 2022 and wild bird trials are still being held in Arcadia and we still use some of the same areas used back then. You traverse through the old homesteads and past several historic cemeteries. The Arcadia grounds were in great shape this year, spearheaded by Brittany Hall of Famer Bob Fleury and South County Field Trial Club member Lanny Dellinger working in concert with biologists and equipment operators to facilitate a management and mowing plan.

Thanks to the State of Rhode Island for their cooperation and efforts for helping to create and maintain bird cover. Their efforts

certainly rewarded the participants with ample woodcock on all the courses. Presiding over the 2022 Southern New England Woodcock Championship were Pete Kazic and George Hetrick. Both gentlemen are avid hunters and field trialers. The club wishes to thank them for their knowledge and enthusiasm for the judicial assignment. Purina and Greg Blair once again stepped up as they always do to support our trial. Our sincere thanks to all.

There were 28 contenders for this year's championship. This year's champion is Jerry On Fire, a well-built orange and white pointer male owned by Nick Puhak and handled by Robert Ecker. The five-year-old ran in the fourth brace on the Pinetop course. Pinetop breaks away in



Robert Ecker with Jerry On Fire, John Stolgitis with Duck Hook, and judges George Hetrick and Pete Kazic.



Joel Collier Derby Classic: Little Miss Margaret with John Stolgitis and Chasehill Poison Ivy with Alan Raiano.

an old holmestead field and then heads towards an abandoned ski area that was called Pinetop. Once you get to the bottom of the ski slope you enter more maintained woodcock cover. Jerry was fast, classy and forward and was rewarded with a beautifully well-mannered find at 35. He finished the course with the same style and power he started with.

The Runner-Up was Duck Hook, a six-year-old white and orange pointer. Call name Brutus, owned by long time field trialer and patron of the sport, Dick Straub from Pennsylvania and Mike Flewelling of Maine. Dick graciously allowed Mike partnership in the ownership and future of Brutus. Brute ran in the seventh brace of the trial, also on the Pinetop course. Brutus had three finds and flowing forward race. The judges indicated the difference being Jerry's strength and animation on the ground.

The Joel Collier Open Derby Classic drew eleven derby-age hopefuls. Judging this year's derby were Steve Levesque and Jamie Nee, both of Massachusetts. Both gentlemen are avid hunters and trialers and know what it takes to get to the winners' circle. Taking home the laurels was Little Miss Margaret, owned by Tim Cavanaugh and handled by John Stolgitis. Fresh off of her runner-up title in the International Woodcock Championship, Margaret flew around the course with three breath-taking finds. A close second was littermate Chasehill Poison Ivy, owned by Alan Raiano. Not to be outdone by her littermate, Ivy is already an Open Grouse Champion having won the 2021 New England Open Grouse Championship. They are sired by Mac Stidham's champion Panola Bacon and previous winner of the Southern New England Woodcock Championship, Chasehill Little Izzy, owned by Erin Stolgitis. It was certainly a special litter.

The aforementioned breeding cross continued to dominate the Coverdog Puppy Classic. Bred again last year by Erin Stolgitis, this cross produced the first and second place puppy winners. First went to Alan Raiano's Chasehills Wango Tango and second to Brian Ralph's Ralph's Chasehill Molly, both handled by John Stolgitis. Partridge Hollow Elrumhew, handled by Adam Dubriski, was named third by this year's judges Bob Little and Donald Henderson, both from New

Brunswick, Canada.

Arcadia, R.I., March 21

Judges: George Hetrick and Pete Kazic

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 19 Pointers and 9 Setters

Winner—JERRY ON FIRE, 1678928, pointer male, by Onpoint's Ball Bust'n Bubba—Onpoint's Dirty Bird. Nicholas Puhak, owner; R. J. Ecker, Jr., handler.

Runner-Up—DUCK HOOK, 1668288, pointer male, by Erin's War Creek—Brave Heart Cassie. Dick Straub & Mike Flewelling, owners; John Stolgitis, handler.

Judges: Steve Levesque and Jamie Nee

JOEL COLLIER OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 10 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—LITTLE MISS MARGARET, 1693526, pointer female, by Panola Bacon—Chasehill Little Izzy. Tim Cavanaugh, owner; Joan Stolgitis, handler.

2d—CHASEHILL POISON IVY, 1694453, pointer female, by Panola Bacon—Chasehill Little Izzy. Alan Raiano, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

Judges: Donald Henderson and Robert Little

COVER DOG PUPPY CLASSIC - 9 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st—CHASEHILLS WANGO TANGO, 1697813, pointer male, by Panola Bacon—Chasehill Little Izzy. Alan Raiano, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

2d—RALPHY'S CHASEHILL MOLLY, 1697757, pointer female, by Panola Bacon—Chasehill little Izzy. Brian Ralph, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

3d—PARTRIDGE HOLLOW ELRUMHEW, 1695675, pointer male, by Barker Elhew Genesis Jeter—Redcum's Braveheart Sue.

ALABAMA FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING & AWARDS BANQUET

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AMERICAN DERBY INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Haney's Storm Warning named Champion

By Bonnie Hidalgo | Grovespring, Missouri | March 21, 2022



American Derby Invitational Championship Winners: Chris Cagle, Jr. with Haney's Storm Warning and Allen Vincent with Westfall's Power Trip.
Standing (from left): Chris Cagle, Sr., Ike Todd, Brad Tolson, Dennis Auping (judge), Steve Gill, Bruce Sooter, Randy Anderson, Henrietta Mason, Ryan Eichelberger, Hank Jansen, Bill Mason (judge), George Hill, Kipp Linard, Don Stroble, Dave Capstick, Sharleen and Andy Daugherty.

Haney's Storm Warning won the American Derby Invitational Championship with spectacular performances in both series. The two-year-old pointer male belongs to Chris Cagle of Woodlawn, Tenn., and was expertly handled through both series by Ike Todd. Haney's Storm Warning scored six finds in the hour-series and five in the ninety-minute finals. His ground races in both series were phenomenal, he gave his all for two and a half hours with never a letdown.

Westfall's Power Trip took the runner-up position with two powerful races. He had two nice finds in the first series and one in the finals. Westfall's Power Trip, a pointer male, is owned by Ryan Westfall, Kearney, Mo., and was handled by Andy Daugherty.

Also brought back for the final series were Wynona's Nickleback Sugar and Phillips Linebacker. Sugar is a setter female owned by Bruce Sooter and Brad Tolson. She was handled by Allen Vincent. Phillips Linebacker, a pointer male, owned by Nathan Phillips and Orrin Ingram, was handled by Mike Small.

The American Derby Invitational Championship found its home at the Field Trial Sportsmen's Grounds at Grovespring, Mo., in the spring of 2018. It is hosted by the Southwest Missouri Sportsmen's Club and follows the Missouri Open Championship. This year was its 29th renewal; it commenced on Monday, March 21, and completed the following morning. This invitational consists of two series; dogs in the first series are invited according to their points ranking among winners of top derby stakes. Ideally, the top twelve dogs are invited and compete, but there is a provision which allows for additional well-ranked dogs to be invited if any of the top twelve are unable to attend. This was the case in this renewal. Each series must run in its entirety in one day, so that the dogs have a similar amount of rest

between series. The initial series is drawn for running order; the dogs run for one hour. The judges select the final series dogs based on their performance and may call any number back. Typically, four dogs are brought back for the ninety-minute finals. The judges may place others on standby in case their top choices fail to suit in the final round.

The drawing for the 29th running was held at the Grovespring clubhouse on the evening before the event began. It was conducted by George Hill, Kipp Linard, and Dave Capstick. Sharleen Daugherty created the running orders and filled out judges' books. The Invitational Championship fish fry was held immediately before the drawing. A large crowd was in attendance; the fish was scrumptious as were the french fries and hush puppies that accompanied it. Kipp, Dave, George and Hank Jansen all lent a hand to prepare it. Sharleen dealt with clean up.

This year's entries in descending order of their rank were: Haney's Storm Warning (owner Chris Cagle, handler Ike Todd, scout Korry Rinehart); Wynona's Nickleback Sugar (owners Bruce Sooter and Brad Tolson, handler Allen Vincent, scout Andy Daugherty); Phillips Linebacker (owners Nathan Phillips and Orrin Ingram, handler Mike Small, scout Mason Ashburn); I'm Gallant (owner Jay McKenzie, handler Randy Anderson, scout Ryan Eichelberger); Touch's Cocaine Blues (owner Matt Griffith, handler Randy Anderson, scout Ryan Eichelberger); Knight's Little John (owner Scott Griffin, handler Ike Todd, scout Korry Rinehart); World Class Moonshiner (owner Mick Marietta/World Class Kennels, handler Randy Anderson, scout Ryan Eichelberger); Smooth Talkin (owner Pat Roach, handler Korry Rinehart, scout Ike Todd); Westfall's Power Trip (owner Ryan Westfall, handler Andy Daugherty, scout Allen Vincent); Rester's Cajun Justice and Rester's Powered Up (owner/handler Cecil Rester); and Lam's

Prime Choice (owner/handler Jon Lam).

It is interesting to note that, of these twelve young dogs, three of the four called back to the finals were the top three in rank. The fourth callback dog was ranked ninth in this group. The four finalists were paired by the judges with their top two dogs in the first brace, in order of preference. The same was true for the second brace, with dogs three and four.

Purina sponsors this Championship and provides Pro Plan Sport to the winners. Everyone in attendance, from club officials to the winners, appreciates this support! Thank you, Purina!

Judges for the Championship were Bill Mason of Moundville, Ala., and Dennis Auping, New Melle, Mo. Bill Mason has been involved with bird dogs and field trials for 47 years. He runs his own dogs and enjoys watching other people's good dogs. Dennis was heavily involved in field trialing and used to help put this field trial on. He took a break from the sport and has recently begun to partake again. They were excellent judges, keeping a good watch on the action and readily recognizing both the attributes and the faults that separate these canine athletes. They commented after the announcement that they had seen many worthy dogs in this stake. Some made mistakes, some got lost but most of them did something noteworthy while under judgement. They were a congenial pair, and we thank them for their time in the saddle.

Kipp Linard chaired this event with some helpful advice from former chair Ken Schmidt. Kipp also marshaled the stake. Hank Jansen drove the dog wagon and Dave Capstick planted birds before the morning running with the help of Bill Signetti. George Hill replaced birds that were moved during the morning braces. These men are a team that have worked together on countless trials through the years, and so this trial ran seamlessly.

THE FIRST SERIES

Rester's Powered Up (Cecil Rester) was drawn with Haney's Storm Warning (Ike Todd). Powered Up is amateur owned and trained by Cecil Rester. Chris Cagle Sr. and Chris Cagle, Jr. were on hand to watch their Storm Warning, aka "Speck", who wasted no time finding game with a stylish first contact at 5. Powered Up came in for a commendable back. Both dogs looked great and were perfectly mannered. Speck's next contact was on the left edge of the double gates field at 14, beautifully high style was displayed. Powered Up pointed attractively at 16, near the pond, but it was a barren stand. Into Davis bottom at 19, Speck was pointing majestically in the right corner, all was in order. He made short work of Davis bottom; appearing as little more than a speck when he pointed on the far end at 26. Speck's fifth find came at 42, on top of Apple Tree hill at the east fence line. His sixth and last find occurred at 54, just before Little Vine. Haney's Storm Warning scored six exquisite finds and never moved a muscle nor relaxed intensity on any of them. It was a rare display to behold with him showing far forward on an edge or being found on point. He finished well to the front. Powered Up put down a big strong race with an, at times difficult handle. With his range, he was out of pocket on a few occasions, but he finished well forward.

Touch's Cocaine Blues (Randy Anderson) and Knight's Little John (Ike Todd) made a quick trip through Little Vine and on through Sycamore bottom. Blues pointed below the Twin barns at 28, with John backing stylishly, Blues took a couple steps but other than that was mannerly. John was steady. John pointed at 42, in the northwest corner of the bull pasture. This was an attractive and mannerly find. Little John finished forward in clubhouse loop.

Lam's Prime Choice (Jon Lam) and Rester's Cajun Justice (Cecil Rester) were handled by their owners. Choice scored a good in find in the cedars prior to cemetery at 29, with all handled nicely. The dogs were forward through the ridge loop and then back into breakaway bottom. At 53, Cajun carded a dug in find, completing it with fine style and good manners. Choice had a second find at 59 in double gate field

to complete the hour.

Westfall's Power Trip (Andy Daugherty) and Phillips Linebacker (Mike Small) were well matched. Trip connected with a high tailed find before the creek at 5. Linebacker scored below the double gates; he was stylish, and intent. At 25, Linebacker stood on the left edge of Davis with excellent style and manners for flush and shot. Trip scored his second find at 55. It was very attractive and well done. Trip ran a hard driving forward race. Linebacker was strong, fast, and mainly forward in pattern. They finished with plenty to spare, going into Little Vine.

World Class Moonshiner (Randy Anderson) and Wynona's Nickleback Sugar (Allen Vincent) turned loose heading into the hill loop. The World Class Kennel was well represented with Mick Marietta, Bill Signetti, Jeremy Gulick and Alissa Ruggles on hand to cheer their favorite contestant on. Bruce Sooter and Brad Tolson were mounted to watch Sugar. Both dogs were running well. Sugar pointed to the left of the pump house at 23, exhibiting pretty style and intensity throughout. Below the barns at 31, she scored another stylish find. Just around the curve in the bull pasture, Sugar pointed at 38 with Moonshiner backing, both displayed beautiful style and were mannerly. Moonshiner became erratic in pattern and his handler opted to pick him up at 41. Sugar made some big attractive moves and finished the hour forward at good range.

Smooth Talkin (Korry Rinehart) and I'm Gallant (Randy Anderson) started prior to the Clubhouse gate and showed promise early. Gallant turned right out of the loop and had to be returned from Climer's pasture. Talkin had an unproductive behind the barns at 17; Gallant caught up at 19. They were forward through the alley and across the road, where Talkin had a second unproductive and was up at 27. Gallant came up and backed naturally. Gallant then made a big move to the far right and had to be retrieved again, Anderson opted to pick up at 31.

THE SECOND SERIES

It was an extremely windy, overcast morning. The temperature at 8:00 a.m. was 50 degrees but the wind put a bite in the air.

Haney's Storm Warning (Todd) and Westfall's Power Trip (Daugherty) were released on course one. Haney's Storm Warning (Speck) pointed at 6, but all that was found were feathers. He went on to the double gates field, where pointed loftily at 13, birds were put up with all in order. In Davis bottom, Speck kept left and was seen coming off the ridge. He then took the left edge, quickly making his way to the south end of the field where he scored a flawless find at 25. Trip showed well forward on the right in Davis bottom. In the Island field Trip took the left edge; Speck came down the right edge and followed it across the front before going up the cut into the next field. When the judges rode through the cut at 34, Haney's Storm Warning was styled up impressively at the base of Fox Hill. Todd put birds up while the young pointer stood like a statue. Speck was quickly up Horse Killer hill and across the top of Apple Tree hill where he pointed at 41; Todd thought something was off and decided to take the young dog on without flushing. Trip showed forward on Apple Tree and then again in Little Vine. Haney's Storm Warning scored again at 48, just before Little Vine hill. As usual, he was picture perfect in all regards. Speck went into the west corner of Little Vine loop but was returned momentarily. Trip was forward at that time. They both sailed forward all the way to Sycamore's far end. Point was called for Trip at 1:09. He was stylish and intent, his birds were well located, and he stood mannerly for the flush. They were forward up the ridge, but Trip was absent at the Twin Barns. Speck had been seen forward. Point was called by the scouts at 1:23. Haney's Storm Warning stood tall beside the fence row; his birds were put to flight while he looked on patiently. Power Trip returned to the front in the bull pasture and took the lower left edge around to finish the heat. Speck was well forward when time expired.

Wynona's Nickleback Sugar (Vincent) with Phillip's Linebacker

(Small) turned loose at the center fence line in the bull pasture. Sugar took the left side to the corner, crossing near the pond. Linebacker broke right and was quickly away. He showed occasionally at the right range and forward but as time went on his appearances became infrequent. At 21, Sugar had an honest stop to flush at the corner pond in clubhouse loop. In the alley just before it reaches Sycamore bottom, she stood on the right edge, at 39. Sugar showed beautiful style with her poker straight tail and flashy feathering; her birds were well located. Sugar scored a second find at 47, across from the cemetery, again she showed knockout style but took a couple steps at the shot. Linebacker had been absent for quite some time and his tracker was pulled at 50. Sugar made nice moves to the creek and on up the ridge beyond. She slowed her pace, and Vincent opted to pick up as they came out of the ridge loop at 1:02.

SYNOPSIS OF THE FINALISTS' COMBINED PERFORMANCES

The Champion, Haney's Storm Warning handled by Ike Todd, scored eleven finds in two and a half hours; all with extreme style and intensity. He made no mistakes on game, not even a step, he remained high until his handler moved him. His races were big and forward, Speck knew how to take an edge and his gait was effortless, his tail high. He was still going strong at time. He showed great rapport with his handler, and he performed consistently.

The Runner-Up, Westfall's Power Trip handled by Andy Daugherty, carded three finds in two and a half hours. He pointed with high style

and was mannerly on all finds. He ran attractively and covered a lot of ground. Although mostly forward in pattern, he was out of pocket at times, especially in the finals. He gave no sign of letting up.

Wynona's Nickleback Sugar handled by Allen Vincent had five finds and a stop to flush in her two hours of running. Her style on game was exquisite! Sugar was responsive to her handler's commands. She was forward in pattern at a desirable range until she tired around the hour mark in the finals and was picked up.

Phillips Linebacker handled by Mike Small scored two finds in the hour and fifty minutes he was under judgement. He looked beautiful on his game and was steady. Linebacker is a powerful dog and ran hard from start to finish. He was a bit too independent in the finals and was eventually lost, but he showed attributes of a true all-age dog.

Grovespring, Mo., March 21

Judges: Dennis Auping and Bill Mason

AMERICAN DERBY INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Qualifying Heats; Ninety-Minute Finals]

11 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner—HANEY'S STORM WARNING, 1691416, pointer male, by Valiant—Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner; Ike Todd, handler.

Runner-Up—WESTFALL'S POWER TRIP, 1693198, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Ice—Westfall's Cutter. Ryan Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

U. S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY, ROBERT E. LEE SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC & LES HOBBS PUPPY CLASSIC

By Verlene Stephenson & David Huffine | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 22, 2022

The annual U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association's Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic, Futurity and Les Hobbs Puppy Classic were originally scheduled for the week of February 21, 2022. But due to illness from COVID-19, the trial had to be postponed to the week of March 21, 2022. Unfortunately, the change in date had a negative effect on participation this year. However, we still managed to have a good trial.

The U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic, Futurity and Les Hobbs Puppy Classic began on Tuesday March 22 and lasted until Saturday, March 26. This year's location was the well-known grounds of the Sandhills Game Land area called the Drop Zone, near Hoffman, N.C.

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

This was the second year the trial has had to deal with COVID-19. Things were less restrictive than last year, however, we still did not go out as a group for a handlers' dinner.

Our thanks go out to NC Wildlife officers Brady Beck and Lee Crisco. They had the grounds in good shape. Also thanks to Margaret and Earl Drew who rode the course and had it clearly marked for all handlers

and the gallery wagon. Thanks also to John and Gretchen Adsit, Frank Joyal and others that assisted in moving the gallery wagon and portable bird pen to the grounds and back. Thanks to Bobby Phillips and Greg Isenberg for getting the tire back on the gallery wagon when it had to be repaired. Thanks also go to Larry Wade and Jeff Ware. They both brought their ATVs and planted birds all week. Eric Munden from Lion Country Supply was present to run his derby in the Futurity. He kindly donated gift certificates from Lion Country Supply to all placements in the 3 stakes. Thank you, Eric!

This year our water for animals was supplied by Mountain Creek Fire Department, a local volunteer fire department in Richmond County. We cannot thank them enough for the loan of their tanker truck for the entire week. There were many people that gave their time and help to make the trial a success. If I have omitted any names, I apologize.

And of course a huge thank you to our national sponsors—Purina and Garmin. Purina supplied dog food, certificates for dog food, hats and cups. Garmin supplied collars for the winner and second place in the Futurity. We so appreciate your support!

Another yearly sponsor is Stinger Supply in Boydton, Va. Darryl Garnett is the manager there and is a Garmin genius. Anything you need related to Garmin, Darryl is your man. Stinger Supply always donates leashes for the four placements in the Futurity. And as mentioned before, Eric Munden of Lion Country Supply donated gift certificates to all placements in the 3 stakes.

Since we did not have a handlers' dinner during the Bob Lee Classic, Tony Bly, owner of last year's winner Stokely B's Ricky, provided a box



Bob Lee Photo (from left): Double Deuce Zeke with Mark Hughes, Double Deuce Sage with Eric Munden, and Bob's Elhew Holly with Bobby Phillips. (Standing): Dave Hughes and other participants on wagon.

lunch from Firehouse Subs for participants on Thursday. It was easy to pick up and take to the tailgate for eating. Thank you, Tony and Marie.

Judges for the Bob Lee Classic were Mack Hilliard of Jackson Springs, N.C., and Tim McClurg of Fowler, OH, but wintering in Hoffman, N.C.

The Bob Lee Classic drew a field of 37 entries, 19 braces. The trial started on Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. It began with cool temperatures, in the 40s. Unfortunately, today we would not have a gallery wagon, due to a flat tire. Luckily, we were able to get it fixed and back on the gallery wagon for Wednesday's running. Because we were expecting severe weather to come in on Wednesday and maybe Thursday, we were able to complete eight braces on Tuesday.

Wednesday started out cloudy and temperatures in the 60s. The gallery wagon was ready and running. There were a few sprinkles of rain but nothing as bad as expected. We were able to complete 7 braces.

Thursday the rains finally came. Thankfully, everyone was prepared with rain gear and the showers did not last very long. Today there was a large gallery to watch the action. The remaining 4 braces were completed before stopping for a lunch break. Announcements were made after lunch.

The judges named Double Deuce Zeke, owned by Doug McMillen and handled by Mark Hughes, as the winner in the 37-dog stake. The judge's book recorded 8 finds.

Second place honors went to Double Deuce Sage, also owned by Doug McMillen and handled by Dave Hughes. The first and second place dogs are littermates. The judge's book recorded 7 finds.

Third place went to, no stranger to the winners' circle, Bob's Elhew Holly, owned and handled by Bobby Phillips. The judges' book recorded 6 finds.

The judges also gave honorable mention to Warrior Zeke, handled by Mark Hughes in the ninth brace, Tenacee Rowdy handled by Greg

Isenberg in the seventh brace, Fox Creek Emma handled by Mike Fox in the eighth brace, and My Way Little Bud handled by Aaron McAfee in the thirteenth brace.

Hoffman, N. C., March 22 – One Course
Judges: Mack Hilliard and Tim McClurg
ROBERT E. LEE SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 25 Pointers and 12 Setters

1st—**DOUBLE DEUCE ZEKE**, 1673940, pointer male, by Double Deuce Peter–Funseeker's Holiday. Douglas McMillen, Jr., owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

2d—**DOUBLE DEUCE SAGE**, 1673986, pointer female, by Double Deuce Peter–Funseeker's Holiday. Douglas McMillen, Jr., owner; Dave Hughes, handler.

3d—**BOB'S ELHEW HOLLY**, 1653300, pointer female, by Elhew Moneymaker–Bob's Miller Daisy. Bobby Phillips, owner and handler.

U.S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY (By David Huffine)

The U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Futurity has been chaired by Verlene Stephenson for the last few years. Verlene tries hard all year long to encourage breeders to nominate their litters for the Futurity. The Futurity drew 27 dogs from 25 litter nominations which were received from Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Delaware, Michigan, New Hampshire, South Carolina and New Brunswick, Canada. There were 21 pointer litters, 3 setter litters and 1 Irish setter litter. A Futurity entry takes 2 years of planning and training.

Judging the Futurity were the well-known and respected team of David Huffine from Wilmington, N.C., and John Outlaw from Goldsboro, N. C.

The Futurity began on Thursday afternoon after the placements for



Futurity Photo (from left): Double Deuce Jack with Mark Hughes, Double Deuce Miles with Krista Munden, Miller's Special Upgrade with Roger McPherson, and Wildland Sweet Caroline with Eric Munden. (Standing): Dave Hughes and other participants on wagon.

the Bob Lee Classic were announced. There were fourteen 45-minute braces. The course began at the hunter's camp and ran through pines and wiregrass before entering a large open hillside and descending into a beautiful, undulating bottom area before finishing on a pine and wiregrass ridge.

The four winners received plaques, a letter from Purina for Purina ProPlan Sport feed, leashes, U.S. Complete mugs, a \$25 dollar gift certificate from Lion Country Supply and checks for breeders and handlers. The winner and second place also received a Garmin collar. Sponsors for the Futurity are Purina and Garmin, without whom there would be no Futurity.

A handlers' lunch was provided on Friday during the Futurity by Doug McMillen, owner of last year's winner, Double Deuce Pearl. Participants enjoyed fried chicken, potato salad, macaroni salad, a veggie tray and delicious desserts. Thank you, Doug! We hope next year you will be here in person.

Double Deuce Jack, a handsome pointer male handled by Mark Hughes, captured first place in the 26th running of the U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association Futurity. Jack is owned by Doug McMillen who is also the breeder. The winning derby is the product of the breeding of Double Deuce Molly and Cal Peak Hundredth Meridian.

Second place was awarded to Double Deuce Miles, also handled by Mark Hughes and owned by Doug McMillen. George Hetrick was the breeder of the pointer male with Double Deuce Zeke on the top of the pedigree and Bucket List Bella on the bottom.

Miller's Special Upgrade was handled by Mark Hughes to a third-place finish. Carlos Escalante owns the fine young pointer who was bred by Fran and Jack Miller. Miller's Upgraded Version is the sire and Miller's Special Edition is the dam.

The final Futurity placement went to Wildland Sweet Caroline, a pointer female who was expertly handled by her owner, Eric Munden. Joe Cammisa is the breeder with Waybetter Rocky on the top and Beaver Meadow Rose on the bottom.

THE RUNNING

Mojo's Remington Steal, a setter female owned by Nick and Renee Molders and bred by Lloyd Murray (Long Gone Porky x Long Gone Juicy) was handled by Dave Hughes. She was braced with Santee River Pawley Girl, owned and bred by Mike McKinney and handled by Aaron McAfee. Her breeding is Hirollin's Talkin Smack and Santee River Molly. Birds were plentiful in this brace. Dave's charge scored finds at 14, 19, 27 and 40 with backs at 3 and 14. Aaron's dog topped that number with 8 finds. Both dogs showed modest races.

Longtime competitor and gallery favorite Bobby Phillips brought Bob's Elhew Smokie (PF) to the line for the second brace. Bobby is the owner, handler and breeder of Smokie (Elhew Moneymaker x Bob's Elhew Julie). Smokie was braced with the fourth-place dog, Wildland Sweet Caroline, owned and handled by Eric Munden whose breeding is detailed above. Smokie had 6 finds combined with a stop to flush, a back and an unproductive in her busy 45 minutes. She had a nice race considering the amount of bird work but shortened a bit late in the brace. Caroline had 6 finds as well with a solid race. She was stylish on her birds but showed a bit of movement before and after the flush.

The third brace matched My Way Buddy Boy (PM) with The Treasure Chest (PM). Buddy Boy is owned and handled by J.D. Warters and was bred by Donald Terrell (Stoney Run's Buddy x Hirollins Fancy Lady). The Treasure Chest is owned and was handled by Cliff Monroe. Gary Winall is the breeder (Mohawk Mill Legacy's Pride x Mohawk Mill Dolly). J.D.'s dog was not feeling well and was up early. Cliff's dog looked great on the ground. He had early finds at 8, 11 and 18. He had a final find as he entered the large field but was cursed with a running bird which he caught on the flushing attempt.

The afternoon braces ended with Thunderhills Storm Rider (PM-D. Hughes) braced with Upper Ten Hot Rod (PM) owned and handled by John Adsit. Dave's dog is owned by Harry Tsepelias and was bred by Gus Piperis (Thunderhills Pale Rider x High Desert Storm). Hot Rod was bred by Frank Joyal Miller's Heat Seeker x Moonlite Yellow



Puppy Photo (from left): Redbud's Southern Boy with Aaron McAfee, Sweet Grass Charlie with David Huffine, and Phillips New Prospect with Matthew Phillips. (Standing): Dave Hughes and other participants on wagon.

Jacket). Storm Rider had finds at 14 and 31 combined with a back but had some difficulty finding the front. John's dog had a bump and chase at 6.

Warren Parrot was scheduled to be in the fifth brace with Hirollins B K Bushwacker (PM) bred by Sergio Velez (B K Pablo Escobar x B K Hirollins Wild) but Warren scratched his dog. The bye dog, Once In A Bluemoon (PF–Miller's Heat Seeker x Moonlite Yellow Jacket) owned, handled and bred by Frank Joyal, moved up to the fifth brace and was matched with Miller's Special Upgrade, the third-place dog referenced above. Frank's dog looked good on the ground but early bird work was too much for the young dog. He had a find at 3 which was followed quickly with another and was up. Mark's dog looked exceptionally good on the ground with a medium to long race. She had finds at 9, 15, 33 and an exceptional limb find near the lake at 44.

Edward Cherry is the owner of NLB Charlie (PM–Hirollins Gone And Doneit x Hirollins Happy Go Lucky) with Warren Parrott, the breeder. The handler was J.D. Waters. The sixth brace paired Charlie with Ithaca (PM–L C Smith x Smoke Rise Mariah) owned, handled and bred by Gary Miller. Charlie had a stop to flush at 5 and then was under a bird at 10. Gary's dog had a nice find at 4. He moved a bit on the flush at a second find at 12. A chase on his final find at 25 was too much for Ithaca and his handler and he was picked up.

Thunderhills Back In Black (PM) was at the breakaway for the seventh brace. He is owned by Harry Tsepelias and was bred by Gus Piperis (Thunderhills Pale Rider x High Desert Storm). Mark Hughes was his handler. His bracemate was Shoal Creek Belle (PF), owned by Tom McCluskey and handled by Cliff Monroe. She was bred by Randy Witt (Stoney Run's Buddy x Witt's Black Rose). Both dogs went long early. Cliff called for the tracker at 22 and Mark followed shortly thereafter.

Brace eight featured Beaver Meadow Bit (PF– Waybetter Rocky x Beaver Meadow Rose) owned and bred by Joe Cammisa and Rebel's Orange Crush (PF–Miller's Speed Dial x Rebel's Touch of Class), owned, bred and handled by Jeff Allen. Dave Hughes loosed Bit but she was under a bird at 12 and was up. Jeff's dog had a nice, medium

race but ran afoul of a bird at 20 and was up.

Mark Hughes took Miller's Hopped Up Version (PF–Miller's Upgraded Version x Miller's Special Edition) to the line for brace nine. The dog is owned by Carlos Escalante and bred by Jack and Fran Miller. His bracemate was J W's Jasmine (PF–Hirollins Talkin Smack x Hirollins Happy Go Lucky). Jasmine is owned by Richard Cook and Charlie Timmerman. Warren Parrott was her breeder. She was handled by Cliff Monroe. Mark's dog was beautiful on the ground. She had finds at 7, 17 and 18 coupled with an unproductive but then went MIA. Mark called for the tracker at 35. Jasmine had 4 early finds at 5, 13, 16 and 19 but her medium race faltered in the heat and she was worn out by 30.

The winner of the Futurity was in the tenth brace. Double Deuce Jack was braced with Tom Jones (PM–Goldberg x Cock'N'Fire Candy) owned and handled by Earl Drew and bred by Allen Johnson. Jack had 5 finds (15, 19, 24 34 and 38) and a single unproductive. His bird work combined with his style and race impressed the judges sufficiently for a first-place finish. Tom Jones looked beautiful on the ground but Jack beat him to the birds. After the fourth back, with each improving, Earl graciously leashed his dog to avoid interference with his bracemate.

Brace eleven pitted Caliber Peak Double Oaked (PM–Caliber Peaks Hundredth Meridian x Double Deuce Molly), owned by Sarah Gomes and bred by Doug McMillen, against Santee River Snow Storm (PF–Lester's Storm Surge x Lester's Snow White), owned by Mike McKinney, bred by Derek Bonner and handled by Aaron McAfee. Dave Hughes handled Double Oaked. He had a modest race with a single back. Aaron's dog also had a moderate race with a find at 20 and an unproductive.

The twelfth brace showcased Double Deuce Miles who took second place and is discussed above. He had stylish finds at 8, 28, 38 and 42 and a pleasing walking dog race. Frank Joyal handled his bracemate, Carolina's Great Pee Dee (PF– Miller's Heat Seeker x Moonlite Yellow Jacket), and was also the owner and breeder. Frank's dog looked great on the ground but only had backs at 1 and 2 to show for his efforts.

The final brace of the stake paired The Lady Ex (PF–Bonner’s Excalibur x Santee River Iced Crush) owned and handled by Cliff Monroe, bred by Ray Anthony, and Conneaut Creek Scenic River (ISM–Cedar Creek Talon x Cedar Creek’s Skyline Belle) bred by Ed Liermann and owned by Ed Liermann and Al Fazenbaker. Dave Hughes handled the handsome red dog. Lady X was not on her game. After an early find, she was under a bird and up. Dave’s dog had a nice find at 6. While his handler was trying to reach the front, the dog was under a bird and chased.

Judges: David Huffine and John Outlaw

26TH U. S. COMPLETE FUTURITY – 25 Pointers, 1 Setter
and 1 Irish Setter

1st—DOUBLE DEUCE JACK, 1691404, pointer male, by Cal Peak Hundredth Meridian–Double Deuce Molly. Doug McMillen, Jr., owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

2d—DOUBLE DEUCE MILES, 1691405, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke–Bucket List Bella. Doug McMillen, Jr., owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d—MILLER’S SPECIAL UPGRADE, 1695107, pointer female, by Miller’s Upgraded Version–Miller’s Special Edition. Carlos Escalante, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

4th—WILDLAND SWEET CAROLINE, 1692066, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky–Beaver Meadow Rose. Eric Munden, owner and handler.

LES HOBBS PUPPY CLASSIC

The Les Hobbs Puppy Classic follows the U. S. Complete Futurity each year in hopes of promoting future Futurity entries. Chairman Verlene Stephenson obtained two experienced field trialers to serve as judges. John Outlaw and Mark Hughes graciously stepped in to replace advertised judges Gary Whitworth and Tony Bingham. Pleasant temperatures made the Saturday morning and early afternoon puppy

event enjoyable. The original draw of 14, had been reduced due to scratches; therefore, the remaining 12 made an even number of 6 braces. Crates were put in the Kubota to take dogs and participants to the second half of the hour course, where 30-minute open piney woods provided a good course. The tractor and gallery wagon followed the braces.

The Les Hobbs Puppy Classic was established in 2017 in memory of Les Hobbs, an avid breeder and field trial participant with the U.S. Complete Shooting Dog organization. The Hobbs family had given a donation in his memory at the time of his death, these monies were used to purchase a rotating trophy.

In the inaugural event Bobby Phillips took home the trophy with pointer female Bob’s Elhew Gail. This year, honors were awarded to Redbud’s Southern Boy, pointer male owned and handled by Aaron McAfee from Clinton, Ill. Second place went to Sweet Grass Charlie, setter male, owned and handled by David Huffine. Third place went to Phillips New Prospect, setter female, owned and handled by Matthew Phillips.

Several people traveled quite a distance from Illinois, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania to spend the week at our trial. Others were present every day to ride in the gallery and lend a hand where needed. Your continued support each year is greatly appreciated. There can be no trial without the support of handlers and others. Thanks again.

Judges: Mark Hughes and John Outlaw

LES HOBBS PUPPY CLASSIC – 8 Pointers and 6 Setters

1st—REDBUD’S SOUTHERN BOY, 1697099, pointer male, by Walker’s Legacy–Redbud’s country Girl. Aaron McAfee, owner and handler.

2d—SWEET GRASS CHARLIE, 1698208, setter male, by Sweet Grass Slim–Tower Hill Zoey Zee. David Huffine, owner and handler.

3d—PHILLIPS NEW PROSPECT, unreg., setter female, breeding not given. Matthew Phillips, owner and handler.

AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB

Grouse & Woodcock Open Shooting Dog Classic

By Pat Carney | Exeter, Rhode Island | March 25, 2022

A lot of planning and work goes in to the execution of a dual event weekend, but under the capable leadership of Bob Fleury and his reliable team of Bill and Fran Gorman taking entries, Henry Wierzbicki driving judges, handlers and dogs to and from courses and Leslie Fleury manning the lunch operation Saturday and Sunday, things were well in hand.

Our esteemed judging panel of Toby Tobiassen from New York and Brian Breveleri from Massachusetts were looking for dogs that could handle the hour, were forward, showed that they were up to the task in every respect and were well presented by their handlers.

The New England Brittany Championship (NEBCA), hosted both events. Many thanks to Purina for their support year after year of both events. And many thanks also to Garmin for their support of the ABC Grouse & Woodcock Classic/Championship.

We had a good entry, and thanks to all who showed up with their dogs to try their hand at these cover dog events. This includes many old faces, as well as some new faces, including Patty Johnston, Craig Stockwell, Kris Nordby, Robert White, MJ Haesche, Roger King and

Dennis Baum who made the trip east from Wisconsin. Additionally, it was great to see three new and much younger faces at the venue learning the ropes as well—Brady Seufferling, Loudon Swierczynski and Ashton Shirley. Welcome to one and all.

The preceding week these three courses had continuously produced birds throughout the week for the longtail championships, and this weekend proved to be more of the same.

The first half of this double header weekend started off just after noon on Friday, the 25th with the ABC Grouse & Woodcock Championship. Under sunny skies and cool to warming weather, the plan of attack was to run two one-hour braces on Friday and the remaining five braces on Saturday. The weatherman was predicting rain on Saturday, but no one was complaining when the rain held off, even though we were dealing with progressively cooler temps as the weekend progressed. Lacking a performance that met the judges’ requirements and which included the requisite bird work, a champion was not named for this year’s classic, resulting in a reversion to a Shooting Dog stake for reporting to the American Field. From brace 4, Burning Glen Cover Girl (“Lucy”), handled by Mike Mercanti, was awarded second place and



American Brittany Grouse and Woodcock Open Shooting Dog Classic (center front row, from left): Brian Brevolari (judge) with Burning Glen Cover Girl, Mike Mercanti with Shirley Saratoga Britt, Paul Shirley, and Toby Tobiassen (judge).

from brace 3, Shirley's Saratoga Britt ("Toga"), handled by Paul Shirley, was awarded third place.

THE RUNNING

Brace 1—Copper Penny Heads Up ("Penny"—Mark Dreyfus) and Centerville's Torrid Pace ("Torri"—Sarah Conyngham); Course 1, breakaway 12:55. Both dogs did a good job working the course, forward and handling easily for the handlers. At 5 Penny had a well-handled find. At 15 both dogs are still well applied and at a good range, with Penny very snappy and forward in her application. At 18 Penny was standing to our right about 15 feet off the trail at the bottom of the ski hill, and Torri and Sarah were continuing forward. While Mark was flushing, Torri worked around much deeper to the right and back towards us, ending up pointing in the vicinity of Penny, who by now had loosened up and selfreleased. Sarah was able to produce the bird with all in order for Torri, and Penny was ordered up. At 26, Torri is standing to our left in some heavy cover. Unable to flush a bird, Sarah sent her on for a relocation, which in spite of a pretty wide effort came up empty-handed. At 41, Torri was ordered up for a mishandled bird. Bird count 4.

Brace 2—CADA's Magnum White Diamond Engagement ("Sandy"—Doug Ackroyd) and Kip's Bay Flat Out Annie ("Annie"); Course 2, breakaway 2:15. Sandy and Annie broke away, showing they were ready and eager for the challenge. At 8 with heavy cover along both sides of the course, Annie's bell went silent and John sent his scout to look for her. She was found standing and the ensuing flushing attempt was wide and lengthy. The relocation attempt that followed was unfortunately unproductive. In the meantime, Doug continued on ahead with Sandy. At 23, after a valiant attempt, John and the rear gallery rejoined the front. It was all for naught, as at 28, Annie was ordered up for an indiscretion. The last half hour was paced more reasonably, but uneventful as we headed through a wider open area with some tall timber going downhill to a wide river. Sandy was showing plenty of bottom throughout the last 30 and hunting hard, but couldn't come up with a bird. Bird count 1.

Brace 3—Shirley Saratoga Britt ("Toga"—Paul Shirley) and Marjo's Sam Son ("Otis"—Mark Dreyfus); Course 3, breakaway 7:55. Right from the start, Toga was really hitting cover and digging in. Otis was doing the same, but with a more forward pattern. At 12, Toga's bell was among the missing and while Otis and Mark continued on, Paul sent his grandson Ashton out to scout, which turned out to be unnecessary as in pretty short order, the front gallery was reporting Toga up with them

and pointing with Otis backing. A bird was produced with everything in order. At 22 we're down along the Falls River where likely looking cover abounds. At 26 both dogs were still aggressively hunting the cover. At 27 additional scouting was needed for Toga with Paul and the judge joining in on the hunt. And at 35, Toga returned from the front and reconnected with Paul. At 42, just before the road, Otis's stand, in cover off to the right, with a relocation attempted, proved barren. And at 44, after the road crossing, both Toga and Otis are found standing. With Mark taking charge of the flushing attempt, failing to produce a bird, and calling for a relocation attempt, Paul elected to collar Toga on. This would prove to be a barren stand as well for Otis. Crossing the bridge, the course continued along the other side of the river. At 52, with Toga's bell gone again, the search is on. At 57, Toga checked in with the gallery and took off for the front without Paul. And 3 minutes later time was called. Bird count 1.

Brace 4—Tonan Roa Just Because It's Clear Cut ("Timber"—Patty Johnston) and Burning Glen Cover Girl ("Lucy"—Mike Mercanti); Course 1, breakaway 9:30. At 13, both Timber and Lucy were covering the course within bell range and staying in contact with their handlers. At 20, Lucy established point at the bottom of the ski hill on the right hand side, while Patty is continuing on with Timber. Unable to produce the bird, a relocation was in order, and with Lucy stopped again, Mike flushed a bird, a shot was fired, and all was well. Lucy is a snappy little dog, digging in to both sides of the course as we headed for the front and slid into the wide open bottom at the foot of the ski hill swinging towards the Marsh. Across the bottom Timber stayed in touch with Patty while Lucy was hitting the marshy area to our left in a desperate attempt to find more birds. With two minutes to go she skipped up the ridge to the right then dropped back down for a final go at the marsh on the left. Bird count 1.

Brace 5—Rib River Tough Enough Too ("Tuff"—Roger King) and Centerville's Sonny ("Sonny"—Sarah Conyngham); Course 2, breakaway 11:00. Off the starting block, Tuff was somewhat sticky. Not so much for Sonny who is found pointing stylishly off the trail to our left. Sarah's flushing attempt produced a woodcock that was well handled. At 17, Sonny is standing again to our left about 30 yards in and when Sarah failed to produce a bird, she elected to just send him on. Tuff has been steadily expanding his game, hanging out there on much wider casts now, hitting some cover. Sonny is ranging even wider at this point as well. At 22, Sonny was scouted by John Kipp and found buried deep in cover and standing. After a lengthy flushing attempt, Sarah tapped Sonny on for the relocation which proved unproductive. At 31 a shot

was heard from the front, and hope springs eternal, so they say, but not this time for Tuffy. When we reached the front gallery, Roger had Tuff on a leash. Continuing on, at time, Sonny had been out of pocket for a while and it was tracker time for Sarah. She found her dog. Bird count 3.

Brace 6—Kip’s Bay Dark’n Stormy Maddie (“Maddie”—John Kipp) and Eight Rod Romeo (“Romeo”—Craig Stockwell); Course 3, breakaway 1:20. At the start, both handlers are off to the races, eventually outpacing the judges and gallery by 300 yards. At 11, this proved to be an unfortunate situation for Romeo and Craig, when a shot was heard up ahead, and an apparently well-handled (but unobserved by judges) find was reported to them by Craig Stockwell. After further cautioning by the judges, handlers slowed their pace and the gallery was able to get their first good look at both dogs. Both Maddie and Romeo were hunting aggressively within bell range – Maddie tackling the cover to our left alongside the river and Romeo further front, with both dogs making some nice casts through the cover. At 30, a woodcock lifted wild on the righthand side with no dog involved. Once over the bridge and across the road, with Romeo further to the front, Maddie continued the hunt, but now at a somewhat closer range. Except for another bird that flushed wild with 2 minutes to go, there was no further dog-involved birdwork. Bird count 4 (3 wild flushes, 1 unobserved find).

Brace 7—CADA’s High Tide Jersey Boy (“Kruk”— Doug Ackroyd); Bye Course 1, Breakaway 2:49. Kruk was aggressively working the cover from the start, and as we approached the bottom of the ski hill

he was being allowed to spend quite a bit of time in the cover to the right where it seems the woodcock like to live, but this time nobody’s home. Continuing on, at 28, with Kruk stopped in cover to our right, Doug fired from back on the trail, for a stop to flush, then proceeded to collar his dog and send him on. Kruk is an all-white dog, which is so eye-catching on the ground, especially in the next wide-open section between the bottom of the hill and the marsh directly across. Once across the bottom, Kruk dug into the swamp, now on the left, and hung out there at bell range, popping out in front of Doug at the end, finishing wide and to the front. Bird count 1.

Exeter, R. I., March 25

Judges: Brian Breveleri and Toby Tobiassen
AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB GROUSE AND WOODCOCK
OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 13 Brittansys – [Title Withheld]

1st—[Placement Withheld]

2d—*BURNING GLEN COVER GIRL, 1684025, female, by Magnum High Velocity—High Hopes Nite Moves. Michael Mercanti, owner and handler.*

3d—*SHIRLEY SARATOGA BRITT, 1668158, female, by Guinness Du Widgeonlee Hunrunr—Jade’s Tricky Du Toga. Paul Shirley, owner and handler.*

NEW ENGLAND BRITTANY GROUSE & WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP

Kip’s Bay Flat Out Annie named Champion

By Pat Carney | Exeter, Rhode Island | March 25, 2022

The second half of this double-header weekend commenced on Sunday, the 27th, with the NEBCA Wild Bird Championship. The temperature was continuing to drop with each successive day, but we still weren’t getting rained on, so all was good. The plan of attack for the NEBCA championship was to get it all done on Sunday, as Monday’s forecast was predicting mighty cold weather with lots of wind. By now everyone knew the drill, lunch was shortened and we got it done without pushing. From brace 3, Kip’s Bay Flat Out Annie (“Annie”), handled by John Kipp, was named champion. From brace 7, Rib River Tough Enough Too (“Tuff”), handled by Roger King, was named runner-up champion. From brace 8, Marjo’s Sam Son (“Otis”), handled by Mark Dreyfus, was awarded third.

THE RUNNING

Brace 1—CADA’s Magnum White Diamond Engagement (“Sandy”—Doug Ackroyd) and Burning Glen Cover Girl (“Lucy”—Mike Mercanti); Course 2, Breakaway 7:55. Both Sandy and Lucy were busy and quick on the ground. Handlers were giving their dogs plenty of time to get in the cover and hunt. At 15, in a likely looking spot where birds have been produced in previous braces, both handlers took their time, allowing the dogs to cover the territory thoroughly, but no birds this time around. At 24, we’ve reached the road and Lucy was moving out along the bottom on the righthand side. At 30 with Sandy on point, Lucy was ordered up for failure to back, and subsequently Sandy was ordered up when she broke with the flush. Bird count 1

Brace 2—LT’s Just Zip It (“Zippy”—Mitch Swierczynski) and Shirley Saratoga Britt (“Toga”—Paul Shirley); Course 3, breakaway 8:46. With both Zippy and Toga running aggressively, at around 5, Toga’s attention

was riveted to the cover on the left. He jumped in and the bell was gone. Mitch was continuing forward with Zippy and Paul sent John Kipp out to scout for Toga. Finally we had the bell back, but even so it took some time to pull Toga back and get him going to the front. At 20, a bird had flushed wild and when Toga came through, he stopped and pointed, Paul just collared Toga on, knowing that the bird had already left before Toga got there. At 31 we regained the front and arrived at the bridge. Both dogs are on the right side of the stream now and headed forward, Zippy more forward than Toga, who is ranging wide left through the cover, crossing to the right and aggressively hunting. Further along, with time expiring, both handlers are trying to put their dogs on birds now by backtracking through cover, but no luck. As reported by the judge, Zippy’s first 30 were forward, he went to the right places, but no luck. Both dogs were birdless. Bird count 1.

Brace 3—Pine Top Pretty Boy (“Scout”—Kris Nordby) and Kip’s Bay Flat Out Annie (“Annie”—John Kipp); Course 1, breakaway 10:09. Right off the breakaway, Annie went to work, digging in and looking for birds. Scout had his running shoes on as well. At 9, Annie’s bell was stopped and John sent Mark Dreyfus out to the right scouting. Kris continued on with his dog as the scouting effort continued behind. Eventually Annie showed to the front, and John moved up to join her. At 20 we reached the bottom of the ski hill, with both dogs stopped in the usual spot on the right, and two birds were produced with both handlers firing. Scout was ordered up, and Annie was sent on after this find. After the perilous drop over the bank, as Annie and John rimmed the wide open bottom, she jammed up on point at 30. Annie was looking mighty fine as judges and gallery approached, the bird was flushed and John fired—a great piece of work. At 35, Annie struck gold again between the trail and the swamp to the left, with another picture perfect find. Then at 37, John fired again as Annie executed a stop to flush on her third contact. After



New England Brittany Grouse and Woodcock Championship (center front row, from left): Brian Breveleri (judge) with Kip's Bay Flat Out Annie, John Kipp with Rib River Tuff Enough Too, Roger King, and Marjo's Sam Son with Mark Dreyfus.

a romp up the ridge on the right hand side of the trail, Annie dropped down and dug in to the swamp on our left. Out of sight, with just the bell to tell us where she was, John let her go as he continued forward, until Annie popped out in front when she ran out of swamp. With 4 minutes to go, John let her continue to roll to front until time. Bird count 5.

Brace 4—Rusty Nail of Coos (“Rusty”—Tom Wood) and Centerville’s Sonny (“Sonny”—Sarah Conyngnam); Course 2, breakaway 12:01. This proved to be a short brace. At about 5, Sonny was pointing to our left in a spot which had previously produced a bird for him. Rusty and Tom were ahead of us and continued on. After a lengthy flushing attempt and relocation which proved unproductive, Sarah moved Sonny on. A second unproductive soon followed for Sonny, and that ended his day. In the meantime, Rusty and Tom were far enough ahead, that your reporter decided that rather than chase them down, it would be simpler to meet them at the road crossing at the halfway point, where Tom decided he wanted more than Rusty had to give today, so at 30 he leashed him. Bird count 0.

Brace 5—Tonan Roa Just Because It’s Clear Cut (“Timber”—Patty Johnston) and CADA’s High Tide Jersey Boy (“Kruk”—Doug Ackroyd); Course 3, breakaway 12:34. Right after a brisk start by both dogs, handlers were giving their dogs plenty of opportunity to dig in and hunt both sides of the trail, hoping for a find, especially at the bottom by the river that had been so productive in prior braces. At 30, as we were approaching the road, Kruk was showing off plenty of bottom and his ridge running talent to our left. At 38, with Kruk standing on point, Timber failed to back and Kruk moved up on the flush. Both dogs were leashed. Bird count 1.

Brace 6—Copper Penny Heads Up (“Penny”—Mark Dreyfus) and Centerville’s Torrid Pace (“Torri”—Sarah Cavanaugh). Course 1, breakaway 1:31. A few minutes after breakaway, Sarah realized she was minus her blank pistol. Mitch was dispatched back to the beginning to locate a pistol, but the only available spare was already in Mark Dreyfus’s pocket. Upon receiving the bad news, at 11, Sarah leashed Torri as she would be unable to compete and didn’t want her lack of a blank pistol to impact her bracedmate in any way. Approaching the bottom of the ski hill, Penny carded a find with the tried and true woodcock on the right with all in order. Continuing on, at 27 to the left of the trail, Penny was spotted standing in some thick cover. A relocation was called for, which resulted in an unproductive. After skidding down

the dropoff to the wide open bottom, we swung around and headed right along the marsh. At 41 Mark was 100 yards up ahead with Penny, who finished her hour without further bird contact. Bird count 2 (one bird was walked up).

Brace 7—Rib River Tough Enough Too (“Tuff”—Roger King) and Kip’s Bay Dark’n Stormy Maddie (“Maddie”—John Kipp); Course 2, breakaway 2:45. At the breakaway, both dogs were off to a good start, with Maddie showing off her quickness, hitting cover everywhere. Tuff is obviously no stranger to the cover dog game and with just a nod from Roger, struck off through the cover with successively impressive casts through likely looking cover, including one at 25 at the hairpin turn, with Tuff ranging wide right on the surrounding ridge and hanging out there all the way around to the front. Maddie continued her aggressive ground race, gradually outpacing Tuff further to the front. At about 30 Roger called point when he spotted Tuff standing about 150 yards off the course to the left. It took a few for handler and judges to get to him and with Tuff solidly pointing, Roger produced the bird and fired—a very nice piece of birdwork. The connection between Roger and Tuff was obvious. In the last 15, as we passed through some really tight cover, Tuff’s application shortened up, but as we broke free and the course opened up, Roger was able to send him once again on another wide cast to the front to finish the hour. Reporter missed the last half of Maddie’s performance, but the judge Tobiassen reported a birdless hour for Maddie. Bird count 1.

Brace 8—Marjo’s Sam Son (“Otis”—Mark Dreyfus); Bye Course 3, breakaway 4:03. Right from the start, Otis hit the cover with a really forward pattern, and plenty of speed to go with it. At 11, Otis was spotted pointing to the left of the course. A lengthy flushing attempt resulted in a relocation which did not produce a bird. At 24, down in the honey hole, Mark scouted his own dog and found him dug in and looking really great on point. A bird was produced with all in order. We moved on with Otis continuing his speedy, well applied and forward application. At 40, just as we crossed the road, Mark spotted Otis about 100 yards ahead pointing in the cover near the river. A bird was produced once again, with all in order. With 9 minutes to go, Otis was still proving he was up to the task, when at 59 he stopped and pointed again. This time Mark was unable to produce a bird and just after time, sent Otis on for a relocation, which resulted in a second unproductive.

NEW ENGLAND BRITTANY GROUSE AND WOODCOCK
CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 15 Brittany's

Winner—KIP'S BAY FLAT OUT ANNIE, 1677146, female, by Roustabout's Flatout–Kip's Bay Dark N'Stormy Maddie. John & Travis Kipp, owners; John Kipp, handler.

Runner-Up—RIB RIVER TOUGH ENOUGH TOO, 1663404, male, by Mark of the Hawk–J D's Hawk's Falcon. Roger & Katherine King, owners; Roger King, handler.

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UNITED STATES AMATEUR DERBY INVITATIONAL

Phillips Linebacker wins the Third Renewal

By Jim Atchison | Dancyville, Tennessee | March 25, 2022



Eastern Region (left to right): Matt Pendergest with Awakened, Perry Lacy with Lacy's Cool Hand Luke, David Hendricks with Pleasant Run Sally, Mike Small with Phillips Linebacker, and Amy Spencer with Cocklebur Breaking Bad. Central Region: Jason Super with Reed's Super Spirit, Holly Rester with Rester's Powered Up, Cecil Rester with Rester's Cajun Justice, and Jon Lam with Lam's Prime Choice. Western Region: Chris Perkins with Perkins Rebel Within, Austin Turley with Touch's Amazing Greyce, and Dale Pool with Carbonado's Silver Sage. (Back, left to right): Bubba Spencer and judges Larry Huffman and Wallace Reichert.

The third annual renewal of the United States Amateur Derby Invitational was hosted by the group bearing the name of the competition and ran on the grounds of the West Tennessee Field Trial Association March 25-27. Invitations to compete were extended to the four high-point derbies from each of the three participating regions of the country. Following one change, the dogs competing on the Dancyville, Tenn. courses included five derbies from the Eastern region, four from the Central region, and three from the Western region.

Thanks to the efforts of Quintin and Tasha Wiseman and the committee of Todd Babbel, Rich Heaton, Jay Lewis, and Whitley Stephenson, this invitational is certainly the most well-sponsored amateur trial and the winning participants are the most awarded of any amateur competition in the sport of field trialing. The corporate and individual sponsors number almost 20, with Purina being recognized and appreciated as the primary sponsor, and more, (much more), will be shared later about the generosity of the numerous sponsors later in this article.

Wallace Reichert from Whitesburg, Ga., brought decades of experience as he returned to judge a second time, after having judged the first running which was also held at Dancyville in 2020. Larry Huffman, from nearby Michigan City, Miss., was the second judge. His accomplishments as a winning professional trainer are well-known and he was accompanied by the AFTCA secretary, Piper Huffman, his wife.

The judges' qualifications were unquestioned, and their services were much appreciated.

Phillips Linebacker, owned by Orrin Ingram of Franklin, Tenn., and Nathan Phillips of Oakland City, Ind., was the winner at the end of his two 45-minute braces and a 56-minute callback. Nathan Phillips was unable to attend and the winner, "Rex", was handled by Mike Small and scouted by Mason Ashburn. Rester's Cajun Justice was the runner-up. He, "Ike", was handled by his owner, Cecil Rester from Angie, La., and scouted by Jon Lam as the final call, "pick'um up", was yelled. Coincidentally, Rester owned two of the dogs that competed from the central region.

THE WINNERS

Phillips Linebacker hunted the first hour course on Friday morning, the third hour course on Saturday afternoon, and the second hour course during the callback on Sunday morning. He found birds four minutes into the first brace on Friday near the intersection of Tripp and Blalock Roads. He strongly navigated the course over land owned by Bill Currie, Allen Currie, The Honorable Skip Taylor, and Mrs. Jan McCloud, until successfully finding a second covey buried deep in a gully at 38. Rex ran an even stronger race the second afternoon as he found birds in the ninth minute on Alex Rickert's land. Continuing on

the holdings of Dr. Eugene Spiotta, Rex had a stop to flush at 21 and found birds again at 33 near a small pond. Appearing unwinded, he then finished the hour across the Ed McClanahan property and back toward Blalock Road. During the callback the winner pointed at 33 to the far western edge of the Coffee Gap bottom owned by Ike and Marty Todd, but the initial stand was unproductive and Small did not ask him to relocate. He continued to hunt aggressively and executed a strong finish as he returned to the front and was seen by the judges about four minutes after time was called.

Rester's Cajun Justice competed over the second hour course during his initial fifth brace run on Friday and again during the callback on Sunday. He hunted the third hour course, in the third brace, on Saturday. Called "Ike" by his owner, the runner-up, on the first day, pointed and Cecil Rester flushed a large covey in a field near one of the rows of pines on Dr. Spiotta's land. He continued across Rich Boumeester's land, then Larry and Janeal Humber's, until he had a second find almost immediately after going back onto the Todd land. His style, manners, and appearance were excellent each time he stood. Ike ran a strong race and had a big finish but found no birds the second day. Called back, Ike again ran a strong and forward race, achieving one nice find during that effort. Cecil Rester was proud of his derby, as was Holly, Cecil's wife, who enjoyed watching from the gallery.

STANDING BY

The judges only called back two dogs and asked one to be on standby. The club had additional birds they planned to put on the course (or courses) that would be used for the callback. However, the judges said to not put out any more birds. Invitationals, with three days of consecutive running, are designed to be endurance stakes. Desiring that no additional birds be planted may have implied that the judges wanted the callback to be a test of endurance.

Touch's Amazing Greyce, owned by Austin Turley from Molt, Mont., stood by but was not asked to run on the third morning. Greyce participated in a stand that started as a divided find in the fourth brace on the first day and demonstrated a lot of self discipline while her brace mate moved forward several times while she stood. Her manners were excellent throughout while Turley flushed, after the bracemate's handler collared him. She had one find on the second day, which enabled Turley to flush a nice covey near a johnny house on the third hour course. She had good finishes both days.

THE OTHER CONTENDERS

Awakened, owned by Matt Pendergest, came to the competition as the high point dog from the eastern region and the overall high point dog for the year. The excellent derby ran great races both days and backed her bracemate nicely at 14 in the fifth brace on Friday. She found no birds on the second day but looked as good running as her record of previous wins would imply.

Carbonado's Silver Sage, Austin Turley's second entry from the western region, had three finds and an unproductive the first afternoon. Sage had a find at 10, marked flight a little when more birds were flushed at 17, turned around when birds were flushed at 31 and then had the unproductive at 34. He then had one unproductive in the first brace on Saturday.

Cocklebur Breaking Bad, owned by the Bubba Spence family, competed in the fourth and second braces, respectively, on the first two days. On the first afternoon he moved forward during the flushing effort of a divided find and followed birds that ran on the ground during an independent find that occurred at 41. On the second day his manners were excellent during a find that came at 43 on the second hour course.

Lacy's Cool Hand Luke handled well for his owner, Perry Lacy, but found no birds either day. On the second day he stopped once, at 25,

but no birds were flushed. While he found no birds at this competition, his performances for the season were excellent as he came into the competition as the second highest point dog in the eastern region.

Lam's Prime Choice, owned by Jon Lam from Illinois, came as one of the five dogs from the eastern region. He found no birds in the sixth brace on the first afternoon and nicely backed the find of his bracemate on the second morning, at 43 in, just before leaving Coffee Gap bottom near the end of the second hour course.

Perkins Rebel Within was handled by his owner Chris Perkins, who flew from Idaho to enter the competition. Rebel came as the high point dog from the western region. On the first morning he pointed under a deer stand but moved forward significantly when the birds flew. During the sixth brace of the second day, he backed his bracemate at 21 and again at 33.

Pleasant Run Sally competed in the third brace on Friday and the fourth brace on Saturday for her owner, David Hendricks from Russellville, Ky. She had no birds either day but is an excellent and promising derby, as evidenced by her placements that qualified her meriting an invitation to this exclusive gathering.

Reed's Super Spirit, handled by Jason Super, stopped at four minutes in the first brace and then spent several minutes being seriously conscious of the possibility of birds. Yet, he never settled in and then hunted the remainder of the hour with no game. Early in the fifth brace he failed to handle a covey of birds properly and then completed the hour birdless.

The final dog in this alphabetically arranged list of entries was Rester's Powered Up. He pointed at 19 but walked forward some while Cecil Rester was attempting to flush. He then marked flight when the birds flew but regained control. He finished his time with no more birds and then had no contact with game in the fourth brace on Saturday.

RECOGNITIONS AND CREDITS

"More, much more" was promised near the beginning of this article. This will take a while, but so many people, generous in many different ways, made this amazing Invitational possible. First, the West Tennessee Field Trial Association co-hosted this trial with the United States Amateur Derby Invitational Club. Members of the West Tennessee Club gathered on Wednesday, March 23, cleaning, organizing, and putting out birds for those who would arrive the following day. Bill Currie, Allen Currie, Ike Todd, Chris Mullin, Dale Pool, Gary Brown, and Crutcher Stoots were on the grounds throughout, helping the other host club and all the guests in every way needed.

The community of Dancysville's landowners who permit the three one-hour courses on their properties are always outstanding sponsors and supporters of the West Tennessee field trialing effort. Those landowners were named earlier in this report and appreciation was voiced for their generosity. In addition to providing significant property used on the second and third hour courses, Dr. and Mrs. Spiotta were thanked for also providing six bedrooms for visiting field trialers.

Meals and social gatherings were an important part of the Invitational. The drawing was held on Thursday night following a social hour with heavy hors d'oeuvres. Tasha prepared breakfast for everyone each morning. Lunches of pulled pork on Friday and hamburgers on Saturday were planned and prepared by Tasha and Quintin. The Friday night Purina Awards Dinner sponsored by Purina featured wonderful medium rare beef tenderloin. The Saturday night dinner for thanking the landowners and announcing callbacks featured pork loin and was sponsored by Whitley Stephenson and Brian Sanchez.

When everyone gathered for the drawing each dog owner received a jacket and a grab bag filled with caps, cups, and other gifts. Each jacket was embroidered with the Purina logo, the Invitational logo, the recipient's name and the year, 2022. The judges and reporter also received jackets. The jackets were provided by Gary and Joy Lester



Mike Small and Mason Ashburn with Phillips Linebacker and Jon Lam with Rester's Cajun Justice. (Rear, left to right): Bill Currie, Julia Currie, Chris Mullin, Allen Currie, Ike Todd, Marty Todd, Gary Brown, Dr. Gene Spiotta, Piper Huffman, Larry Huffman (judge), Crutcher Stoots, Cecil Rester, Dale Pool, Holly Rester, Wallace Reichert (judge), Quintin Wiseman, Tasha Wiseman, Jay Lewis, Todd Babbel, Cammi St. John, Keith St. John, and Trisha Babbel.

(The White Company) and the bags were provided by Tierra Hadley. Then on Friday night Quintin thanked all the many other sponsors and donors as he told who they were and related how their generosity enabled the Invitational to be put on in such a first-class manner and how such nice gifts and prizes could be provided. As invitationals are, by design such money losers (with 12 entries at \$250.00 each), this United States Amateur Derby Invitational is a rare exception.

Many donors provided specific gifts and/or awards, but some gave checks. Purina, Phil and Melissa Town of Rule One Investing, Scott Griffin, Whitley Stephenson, and Tierra Hadley were thanked for their donations.

Then Wiseman told of the prizes that the owner of the winning dog would take home. Those included a trophy saddle obtained from Haggis Saddles, Garmin's gift of their latest Astro tracking collar, a painting on canvas of the winning dog painted by Lisa Bigham, and Purina's award of eight bags of Purina Pro Plan. The Runner-Up would receive a Haggis saddle, a painting of their dog created on a turkey feather by Mike Kearney of Trophy Bone Artistry, and four bags of Purina Pro Plan. The winning scout would receive a pair of custom-made chaps from Patty Ewer of Custom Leather and Canvas. Additionally, a new Breeders' Cup Award was announced. The Gary Phillips Memorial Breeders Award, donated by Nathan Phillips in memory of his father, will be given annually to the breeder of the winning derby. Purina also gave a bag of Pro Plan to the owner of each of the 12 dogs. And Wiseman shared that saddles obtained from Bob Johnson, of B and B Tack in Albany, Ga., had been awarded earlier to winners of the Regional Super Qualifiers.

The winners of the above awards were, for the most part, not known at the time they were announced. But then several other awards were given to owners in the room. The Jim Crouse Memorial Plaque for the National High Point Dog was awarded to Matt Pendergest in recognition of this year's achievements of Awakened. The donors of engraved Henry Golden Boy .22 caliber repeating rifles were announced as the rifles were presented to the owner of the High Point dog from each region. The rifle for the eastern region was donated by the Keith Wright family and won by Matt Pendergest. The rifle for the central region was given by Sean and Patty Derrig and won by Jason Super. The rifle for the western region was given by Alex and Brianna Rickert and won by Chris Perkins.

The effort Wiseman put into acknowledging the generosity of the many donors and sponsors was thorough, genuine, and sincerely spoken. No one left the Purina Awards Dinner without knowing who had made the many awards and prizes possible.



Mike Small (left) and Mason Ashburn with Phillips Linebacker, winner of the 2022 Gary Phillips Memorial Breeders' Cup Award.

This third renewal of being able to bring the 12 outstanding derbies, with some representing each region of the United States, was, again, outstanding. The quality of the dogs and the integrity of the judges who watched then, the efforts of the leaders of the two host clubs, the quality of the courses, the social aspects of the gathering, the quality of the prizes and awards, the comradery, even the weather, and every other aspect of three days in Dancyville were amazing. On the last day everyone left, headed back to many parts of the nation but looking forward to gathering again next year; back to Grovespring, Missouri in 2023. Quintin Wiseman said we would run there either the first or second week in April. As Easter will be April 8 in 2023, this writer is projecting that we will be there the second week in April.

Dancyville, Tenn., March 25

Judges: Larry Huffman and Wallace Reichert
UNITED STATES AMATEUR DERBY INVITATIONAL
 [Forty-Five Minute Qualifying Heats First and Second Days;
 Forty-Five Minute Finals] – 12 Pointers

Winner—PHILLIPS LINEBACKER, 1695679, male, by Phillips Off Line—Phillips Silver Lady. Orinn Ingram & Nathan Phillips, owners; Mike Small, handler.

Runner-Up—RESTER'S CAJUN JUSTICE, 1691667, pointer male, by Whippoorwill Justified—Rester's Katie Lee. Cecil Rester, owner and handler.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY GROUSE DOG ASSOCIATION

By Brent Sittlow | Augusta, Wisconsin | March 26, 2022



Large contingent of field trial participants with Open Shooting Dog winners.

Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Association's spring trials can be a crapshoot in the spring. A quick warm up in early March got the snow off the ground, but another cold spell left us questioning our sanity when we ran the trial. Temps were in the teens and twenties, with stiff winds prevailing for both days of the trial. These conditions made things a bit challenging on everybody involved. But the Eau Claire County Forest did her job by providing the habitat and the birds, and many of the dogs did their job as well by finding them in their haunts.

A big thanks to all the CVGDA members and participants that made the trial go smoothly. Tom Goltz, Mike Luebke, Rod Lein, Randy Bruder, Ben Mergens, Jim Kleve, James Kleve, and others, kept the trucks moving, and tag teamed the marshaling duties on the courses. It was great to see a lot of new faces as well, and hopefully we can parlay that into active cover dog field trialers in the future. Bert Benshoof brought the energy we needed to brave the cold climate, in the form of donuts. Donuts are always greatly appreciated.

Of course, a final thank you to our sponsor, Purina, for being a big supporter of the Cover Dog clubs. It would be really difficult for Cover Dog clubs to do these trials without you.

Judges Brett Edstrom and Scott Anderson presided over the one-hour shooting dog stake, which saw a solid entry of 18 dogs mixed among pros and amateurs.

Emerging on top was North Slopes Allie (Graddy) that kept up a snappy hour, culminating with a nifty grouse fine at 59, at the very end of the Wilson Park Course. Over The Hill Patty (Lein) expertly ran the Gasline Course, produced a woodcock, and garnered the red ribbon. Third place went to Northwoods Atlas, who produced a woodcock on the Stokely Diablo Jake Course, combined with a nice ground effort.

The Derby stake was good one. It consisted of ten braces of good action over multiple courses. Judges Steve Snyder and Neil Anderson named Over The Hill Morgan (Lein) the winner with a couple of good finds on the Gasline course. Second place went to Bad Habits (Mergens) that smoked the Wilson Park Course, and third place went to Over The Hill Try (Lein) who dominated the Stokely Diablo Jake Course. All three of these placements were from the same litter. Obviously a good nick was struck in that pairing!



Open Derby (from left): Jeff Sullivan with Over The Hill Try; Ben Mergens with Bad Habits; and Rod Lein with Over The Hill Morgan.

Augusta, Wis., March 26

Judges: Scott Anderson and Brett Edstrom
OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]
2 Pointers and 16 Setters

1st—NORTH SLOPES ALLIE, 1683547, setter female, by A Keystone Kid—Signature Ridge Cody. James Graddy, owner and handler.

2d—OVER THE HILL PATTY, 1659908, pointer female, by Go Johnny Go—Beaver Creek Lucy. Rod Lein, owner and handler.

3d—NORTHWOODS ATLAS, 1674557, setter male, by Northwoods Grits—Northwoods Nickel. Greg Johnson, owner and handler.

Judges: Neil Anderson and Steve Snyder
OPEN DERBY – 12 Pointers and 7 Setters

1st—OVER THE HILL MORGAN, 1699010, pointer female, by J T H Scion—Over The Hill Patty. Rod Lein, owner and handler.

2d—BAD HABITS, 1696871, pointer female, by J T H Scion—Over The Hill Patty. Ben Mergens, owner and handler.

3d—OVER THE HILL TRY, 1699008, pointer female, by J T H Scion—Over The Hill Patty. Rod Lein, owner and handler.

GRAND VALLEY BIRD DOG CLUB

By Jim Cipponeri | Ionia, Michigan | March 26, 2022

Forty-nine years ago the Grand Valley Bird Dog Club ran the very first sanctioned field trial at the Ionia Recreation Area. I remember it vividly as the coldest trial I have ever attended. Back then we did not have the luxury of a clubhouse or barn and the parking lot consisted of frozen mud ice and sod. Professional Dave Grubb drove up from Selma, Alabama after spending the winter at his southern training grounds and numerous dogs tore their pads and feet as temperatures never made it out of the teens.

This year's renewal saw weather as bad, if not worse, than in 1973 as the sun never shined and the wind kept blowing to the gale force variety (30 to 45 mph). Sitting in the judges' saddles were Kathryn Lipski, Bill Branham, Mike Brown and Jenny Kurz who joined forces with Richard, Harold and young Ricky Hollister (Ricky judged every stake he didn't run in). Premier bird planter Richard Lipski had his new Honda UTV ready to go every morning and was the last one to leave the parking lot at night.

It was nice to see some new faces, and old as well. Tom O'Malley came over from Indiana to run a setter pup and most of the trialers from Michigan and Ohio seemed to survive the winter months and were enthusiastic for the coming season.

Ionia, Mich., March 26 – One Course

Judges: Robert Ecker and Ricky Hollister

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 6 Pointers, 2 Setters
and 2 German Shorthairs

1st—*STELLER WIND*, 1678050, pointer female, by *Easy Terms–Quickmarksman's Erin Penny*. Jim & Connie Cipponeri, owners; Jim Cipponeri, handler.

2d—*WICKED QUICK*, 1674810, pointer female, by *Dunn's Tried'n True–Dunn's Get Out Sue*. Sandy Maclean & Kelsey Hajek, owners; Kelsey Hajek, handler.

3d—*DUKE'S HOLD MY BEER*, 1684677, pointer male, by *Sugarknoll War Paint–Sizzlin Julie*. Ron Sposita, owner and handler.

Judges: Ricky Hollister and Jim Cipponeri

OPEN DERBY – 1 Pointer, 1 Setter and 2 German Shorthairs

1st—*ADDIE*, German Shorthair female, unreg., German Shorthair female, breeding not given. Vinnie Landolina, owner and handler.

2d—*RIPP*, unreg., German Shorthair male, breeding not given. Vinnie Landolina, owner and handler.

Judges: Ricky Hollister and Richard Hollister

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 4 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—*WICKED QUICK*, 1674810, pointer female, by *Dunn's Tried'n True–Dunn's Get Out Sue*. Sandy Maclean & Kelsey Hajek, owners;

Kelsey Hajek, handler.

2d—*BAD RIVER BEAUREGARD*, 1665144, setter male, by *T's Nickleback–Straight Up Skydancing Lady*. Tom Vanecek, owner and handler.

3d—*STELLER WIND*, 1678050, pointer female, by *Easy Terms–Quickmarksman's Erin Penny*. Jim & Connie Cipponeri, owners; Jim Cipponeri, handler.

Judges: Ricky Hollister and Jenny Kurz

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 1 Pointer, 4 Setters and 1 Brittany

1st—*TUPELO HONEY*, 1681583, setter female, by *Ponderosa Mac–Out of the Shadows*. Bob & Diane Wheelock, owners; Bob Wheelock, handler.

2d—*SPRINGPOND C NOTE*, 1677261, setter male, by *Springpond Rockin Autumn–Wild Bird Faith's Beauty*. Mike J. Brown, owner and handler.

3d—*K DEL'S EAGLE MAGNUM HOTSHOT*, 1685770, Brittany male, by *Magnum High Velocity–K Del's Eagle's Chance to Soar*. Ken DeLong, owner and handler.

Judges: Mike Brown and Jim Cipponeri

OPEN DERBY – 2 Pointers, 4 Setters and 1 Brittany

1st—*BRUNO'S PINEY RUN PEARL*, 1690605, Brittany female, by *Piney Run Jake–Piney Run Candy*. Arthur Bruno, owner; R. J. Ecker, Jr., handler.

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

3d—*NORTH BAY'S TENNESSEE RYE*, 1690874, setter male, by *Ponderosa Mac–Eldridge's Beauty and Beast*. Brandon Short, owner and handler.

Judges: Mike Brown and Harold Hollister

OPEN PUPPY – 4 Pointers, 3 Setters and 1 Brittany

1st—*BUCK OF PINEY WOODS*, 1696648, pointer male, by *Bo of Piney Woods–Grouse Hill Prima*. Richard Warters, owner; R. J. Ecker, Jr., handler.

2d—*HAYWOOD LEAO MEKALO*, 1697402, Brittany male, by *Dogwoods Speeding Comet–Majestic Scout B*. Stephen A. Mekalko, owner and handler.

3d—*DUN ROVENS BOURBON CREEK*, unreg., setter male, by *Dun Rovens Zip–Aiken's Bine Animosh*. Chris Jager, owner; Richard Hollister, Jr., handler.

Would you like to nominate a person or dog for the Field Trial Hall of Fame?

Email nominations to: Dinora Wellmann • dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

REGION 4 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Little More Shine Named Champion

By Jim Pendergest | Berea, Kentucky | March 26, 2022



Region 4 Amateur All-Age Winners (from left): Tim Hammons with Little More Shine, and Buster Tucker with Casey Creek Crystal Ice. (Back row): Burke Hendrix (judge), Kristine Hammons, Mary Sue Schalk, David Russell (judge), and Jim Pendergest.

The 2022 Region 4 Amateur All-Age Championship concluded Sunday, March 27th with the announcement of Little More Shine as Champion. Shine is owned by Kristine and Tim Hammons, and was handled to the title by Tim and scouted by Kristine. Casey Creek Crystal Ice was named Runner-Up Champion in a closely contested event. Crystal is owned by Buster and Pam Tucker, and was handled by Buster.

Judges for this event were Burke Hendrix of Hernando, Miss., and David Russell of Como, Miss. Burke is an accomplished handler in both open and amateur competition with his bloodlines. Burke, and his father Guy, have developed field trial grounds in Como, Mississippi, and generously allow a variety of clubs to run trials on their grounds. David is rapidly making a name for himself on both the amateur and open circuits in arguably what is the toughest region in America. Their decision was well received.

Many thanks go out to all those who helped make this trial happen. Mary Sue Schalk is the Secretary of Region 4 and carries the bulk of the workload in seeing that the Amateur All-Age, Amateur Shooting Dog and Amateur Walking Championships come off successfully each year. Tim Hammons and Buster Tucker assisted with the marshaling responsibilities for the trial and also scouted for several of their fellow competitors as needed. Pam Tucker provided the treats and drinks for the dog wagon both days, including delicious French toast with sausage links and homemade fried apple pies. Charlie Turner handled the dog wagon duties in his usual efficient and timely manner. Amy Pendergest handled lunch duties each day. Thanks to all for their help.

Purina and Greg Blair sponsored the Championship, like they do many others and the champion and runner-up were awarded bags of Purina Sport Pro Plan as an additional reward for their accomplishments.

Purina's support is instrumental in being able to continue to put on first class trials for the competitors and we can't thank them enough.

THE WINNERS

It is uncanny, how many times the winner of a trial comes from the last brace and it happened again with this trial. Little More Shine drew the last brace of the stake, coupled with Crouse's Tennessee Game Kate. This brace put on a show with 6 individual finds and one divided find. This pair broke away from the clubhouse Sunday afternoon, with Shine making short work of the opening field and showing to the extreme in the Dewey Bottom as we crossed the trap range. Kate was biddable through the first portion of the course and scored nicely at 18 near the old tobacco barn location. Her style was arresting. Shine made contact with Hammons at this juncture and made a good swing around the plowed field. Shine then took the left edge of the big bottom and showed well to the front past the tree line shortly thereafter. Point was called for both dogs at 24, with Kate on the first tree line and Shine about 100 yards further on the next line. All was in order for both stylish females. Both dogs were shown by handlers through the tight back corner of the property. As we dropped over the hill back into the big bottom, Shine was casting along the woodline to the right and then to the opposite side. The call of point came from scout Kristine Hammons shortly thereafter. No birds were produced initially and Shine was asked to relocate. An extended effort ensued and Shine went deep into the woods to pin a Woodcock. All was in order again and the entourage set out to catch the front. At the blacktop road crossing Kate was notching find number three for Crouse. Across the road, both dogs took the treeline to the left, with Kate on the left side and Shine on the

right. About three quarters of the way down the line, Shine winded birds and ventured into the treeline. She was standing when handler got to her and Kate was pointing as well from the other side. A well-handled divided find for both dogs. After being released, Shine was shown well to the front and over the hill toward the Agee House. Shortly the call of point came again from scout and Shine was styled up in the treeline intersecting the Agee Bottom. A relocation was required, which Shine performed admirably to conclude her hour with her forth find.

Casey Creek Crystal Ice was braced with Crouse's Quiet Man in the ninth brace of the stake. This pair broke away from the Old House location and both were ambitious from the start. Crystal was seen in the Orchard field at 6 and then not again until we reached the pine tree line just before the Agee house at 17 minutes where she reconnected with Tucker. Tim Hammons, scouting for Tucker, called point at 22 with Crystal standing majestically. After a long flushing attempt, Tucker asked for a relocation. During the process, a bird got up with Crystal stopping immediately for the shot. The front was made just after crossing the blacktop road and Quiet Man was out of pocket. As Tucker sent Crystal across the small creek toward the Round Woods, she wheeled and pointed. Birds were flushed and shot fired with all in order. Crystal moved quickly forward and out of sight and was spied 5 minutes later on a picturesque stand near the gravel road. Again all was in order for her third contact. Crystal rimmed the plowed field and dropped into the bottom via the New Century Road and took the right edge of the big bottom. She was shown well to the front here and was standing at a honeysuckle clump when handler got to where he had last seen her. Tucker chose to take her on without flushing as he deemed the odds too great of producing her quarry from the heavy cover. Quiet Man rejoined the group at this juncture and both dogs made big swings down the power line. Just before the creek crossing, Crystal was working scent, established a stand and Tucker called the flight of the birds. They were seen officially and Tucker shot to record his fourth find with Crystal. From here both dogs were ranging strongly through the final portion and the hour was completed in the Dewey Bottom.

THE RUNNING

Morgan's Yellow Ledbetter (Morgan) with Game Heir (Corder). Heir was shown on a nice swing into the Dewey Bottom and then seen again at 12. He was absent shortly after that and the tracker was requested at 40. Ledbetter scored at 17 along the gravel road intersection with good style and manners. His pattern was forward but moderate for the remainder of the hour.

Rebel Dreams (Williams) with Crouse's Equalizer (Crouse). Equalizer was spotted pointed at 4, but no game was produced. He recorded a back at 35 and consistently showed to the front for the remainder of his hour. Dreams scored at 9 near the clubhouse woods with all in order. Dreams was missing as we passed the Old House location, returning to the front at 22. The call of point came at 35, with both dogs present. Crouse elected to take a back and Williams was able to produce birds in a difficult flushing situation with Dreams well behaved. Dreams had another absence for 8 minutes and then made the front. She was shown to the front at 48 and then found pointing to the front after pickup time for her third successful contact.

Coldwater Paradise (McKibben) with Game Wardon (Corder). Paradise was shown well to the front after breakaway from the Old House starting point. Point was called at 10 by her bracemate's scout, but as we made the ride Paradise met us coming to the front. She was pointed in the Agee Bottom at 22 and a single was produced with Paradise taking the liberty of a step. Her good pattern continued and she scored her second find at 42. Additional movement at flush caused McKibben to put her in the harness. Wardon showed well through the hour, but was not able to make game contact.

Imagine (Pendergest) with Crouse's White Dragon (Schalk). Dragon was shown on a good move in the Dewey Bottom and then not seen

again. Imagine made a nice move in the Dewey Bottom and then was kept close until the concrete crossing, where he showed nicely up the right edge and along the Round Woods. Point was called at 16 with a good piece of work resulting at the gravel road. Imagine made a good show in the Big Bottom and then was gone for 12 minutes as we toured the back corner of the property. He came from the front at the Sow Pond and made a good cast into the bottom and another toward the concrete crossing as we passed by it again. He scored his second at the treeline at the Round Woods with everything in order at 42. Across the blacktop, he was to the left and around the Goose Pond woods, before crossing over to the treeline intersecting the Agee Bottom. Point was called for the derby aged pointer for the third time, with a picturesque stand producing game at 55. Imagine was in hunting mode thereafter and failed to finish with the range necessary to challenge the winners.

Dialed In (Pendergest) with Rebel Grace (Williams). Dialed In was on point at 9 with an unproductive recorded. As she was being heeled to the front, a single got up and her reaction time was not satisfactory and she was harnessed. Grace recorded a back to Dialed In's stand and was taken on during the relocation. She was out of pocket shortly thereafter and the tracker was requested at 35.

Game Rebel (Corder) with Rebel Survivor (Williams). Both dogs were shown consistently through the first part of the course and the initial contact came at 25 with Survivor pointing and Rebel backing. The roles were reversed at 38 with Rebel scoring his first. As we crossed the creek to be back on course, Survivor scored again on a single. Rebel was on point at 44 with Survivor coming in for another back. The action was coming fast now as Rebel was pointing again at 52 near the Old Barn location. A divided find concluded the action at pickup time.

Silver Creek Wild Again (Hammons) with Pendency's Good Grace (Pendergest). Wild Again had a strong race throughout, but without the benefit of game. Grace was shown impressively off of breakaway and then not seen again until 16 at the gravel road crossing. She scored at 17 across the gravel road with all in order. Grace swung left around the plowed field and then took the right edge of the Big bottom and was on point well to the front to score her second at 24. She made some impressive moves on the ground through the back corner of the property and back into the Big Bottom. After crossing the blacktop road, Grace was to the left in the Drive In field and had to be ridden for and brought back to the front where she finished on a nice swing toward the Mailbox breakaway.

Storm's End (Pendergest) with Wicked Hippie (Maclean). Hippie was consistent and forward in her pattern, but failed to score on game. Her only stand produced just feathers. End scored quickly at 4 minutes with high head and tail. She was on point again at 10 with another picturesque find. She recorded her third at 42 in the tree line intersecting the Agee field. End was out of pocket after this find and ultimately brought back in the harness.

Berea, Ky., March 26

Judges: Burke Hendrix and David Russell
REGION 4 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 18 Pointers and 2 Setters

Winner—LITTLE MORE SHINE, 1672392, Irish setter female, by Red Rock—Covered In Red. Kristine & Tim Hammons, owners; Tim Hammons, handler.

Runner-Up—CASEY CREEK CRYSTAL ICE, 1676908, pointer female, by Casey Creek Icy Hot—Chalie's Dream Girl. Buster & Pam Tucker, owners; Buster Tucker, handler.

GREENFIELDS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

The Virginia Classics

By Julienne Richards | Scottsville, Virginia | March 31, 2022



Amateur Shooting Dog (back row, from left): Darrell Miller, Mike Winchester, Tommy Stargell, and Grayson Francis.
(Front row): Tiffany Smith with Calico's Guns N Roses, Braydon Smith, Alex Smith with Calico's Over The Top, and Frank Henderson.

Among the blooming dogwoods in Central Virginia, once again we came to Greenfields Farm to run the Virginia Classics and accompanying stakes. Greenfields is owned by John and Vivian Milton. Their hospitality holds no bounds, and we owe them gratitude we can never repay. We can and do say a "heartfelt" thank you. In addition, we offer sincere thanks to Purina and Greg Blair for their stalwart support of this trial and all the others.

The club has an outstanding group of workers for this and all our endeavors. As always, our food was plentiful and terrific thanks to Julie Richards and Janet Stargell. The dog wagon was in the capable hands of Kirk Regensburg and club friend and longtime trialer Mike Winchester. Iron man Darrell Miller lent his bird planting skills to good use the entire weekend. He was up every morning long before daybreak, in the cold, putting out the excellent flying and healthy birds bought from Williamson's Game Bird Farm. Our most valuable player this trial was club member Steve Mills, who went to get the birds, brought them a day early, put them in the housing pen, judged a stake and ran his quality dogs. Members Bruce Conover and Grayson Francis judged stakes, and both know what they are doing in the judging department. Pete Del Collo has always been a loyal supporter of our trials and more importantly he is a quality guy and always a pleasure to be around. More importantly, he always brings his lovely wife Chris, who always does all the work and is even more of a pleasure to be around. We used Pete's talents to judge for us. We thank him and we thank Chris

for the wonderful whisky cake she brought.

Food is a big part of our trials. A person who leaves with his or her belt in the same hole as they came is a rarity. Our Friday night supper was in honor of last year's Shooting Dog Classic winner, One Day Frost. Saturday night's supper honored Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk, winner of the All-Age stake. Festive and delicious daily lunches were prepared, along with Friday and Saturday's suppers by Julie Richards and Janet Stargell.

The stakes began at 8:00 a.m. Friday morning. The Amateur Derby was won by Touch's Midnight Rider for John Milton. He ran a bye in brace 3. He had an independent, strong forward race and one very good find. Pagan Creek Atticus was placed second. He ran in brace 2. He had a strong, forward race. He had a very good find at 28 with interference by bracemate. Gene Hogge ran Atticus. Bevy's White Soldier (Stargell) was placed third.

There was a brief break and then the start of the 30-minute Shooting Dog stake. Our winner in this event came in the third brace. Larry King's Alibi Girl put forth a sparkling race. Her birdwork came at 14 and 23. In second was Larry's other entry, L F Dialing Samantha. Samantha ran well and found birds at 3 and 26. In third was Bruce Conover's Bad News Bob. Bob charted an unproductive at 9 and then birds at 22 and 28.

The hour all-age gave us a winner in Southern Shadows T Rex,



Amateur All-Age (back row, from left): Pete Del Collo, Frank Henderson, and Bruce Conover. (Front row): Lance Servais, and Brian Peterson with Southern Shadows T Rex.



Amateur Derby (back row, from left): Pete Del Collo, Frank Henderson, and Bruce Conover. (Front row): Vivian Milton, Grant McCall, John Milton with Touch's Midnight Rider, Alex McCall, and Cameron McCall.

owned by Lance Servais. T Rex covered the course in large chunks. On this blustery afternoon he had five finds and two backs.

We began the hour Shooting Dog stake at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Our winner emerged in brace 6. Guns N Roses put on a shooting dog show. Her first find was at 17, and she looked beautiful. She was gone for 9 minutes and found dead to the front, on point with brace mate backing. From there she found birds at 31, 42 and 58. Her race was all class. This was a mature and lovely performance. In second place was another Smith-Calico Kennel's dog, Over The Top. Top found birds at 3, 8, 23, 35, 39 (an unproductive at 43), 46 and 55. Along with all the birds, she ran well when she could. Our third place dog was another birdfinder and is owned by Pete and Chris Del Collo. Sugarknoll Bull Whip ran in the first brace of the morning. He found birds at 5, (an unproductive at 8), 17, 21, his best piece of work, 35, 41, 43, a stop to flush at 50, and 59. It was a very busy hour!

We were left with one Shooting Dog Classic brace for Sunday morning. That over, we announced the winners and made our thanks. Once again, we now thank Purina, John and Vivian Milton, all of our dedicated work team, and special thanks to the participants who made it possible.

Greenfields Field Trial Club – The Virginia Classics
 Scottsville, Va., March 31
 Judges: Bruce Conover and Pete DelCollo
 AMATEUR DERBY – 8 Pointers

- 1st—TOUCH'S MIDNIGHT RIDER, 1697542, male, by Touch's Smooth Rider–Touch's Gold Dance. John Milton, owner and handler.
 2d—PAGAN CREEK ATTICUS, 1692037, male, by Goldberg–Mohawk. Gene Hogge, owner and handler.
 3d—BEVY'S WHITE SOLDIER, 1689807, female, by Mohawk Mill Image–Bevy's Cadillac Jukebox. Thomas Stargell, owner and handler.

AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats] – 4 Pointers

- 1st—SOUTHERN SHADOWS T REX, 1682853, male, by Skyfall–Miller's White Wall. Lance Servais, owner and handler.

Judges: Grayson Francis and Tommy Stargell

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats] – 16 Pointers

- 1st—CALICO'S GUNS N ROSES, 1682136, female, by Dominator's Rebel Heir–Calico's Touch of Class. Calico Kennels & Alex & Tiffany Smith, owners; Alex Smith, handler.
 2d—CALICO'S OVER THE TOP, 1692315, male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir–Calico's Country Strong. Calico Kennels & Alex & Tiffany Smith, owners; Alex Smith, handler.
 3d—SUGARKNOLL BULL WHIP, 1686086, male, by Sugarknoll Snow Warning–Randa Rousey. Peter & Christine DelCollo, owners; Peter DelCollo, handler.

Judges: Grayson Francis and Steve Mills
 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 6 Pointers

- 1st—ALIBI GIRL, 1667107, female, by Southbound Ben–Shadows Carolina Molly. L. J. & Casey King, owners; L. J. King, handler.
 2d—L F DIALING SAMANTHA, 1669132, female, by Walnut Tree Fred–Dialing Kate. L. J. & Casey King, owners; L. J. King, handler.
 3d—BAD NEWS BOB, 1678771, male, by Mohawk Mill Pirate–Mohawk Mill Southern Belle. Bruce Conover, owner and handler.

— Advertising deadline for the July newsletter is June 5 —

NBHA NORTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Dale Creek Tothe Max wins 2022 Running

By Greg Blair | Argyle, Wisconsin | April 1, 2022



NBHA Northern Regional Championship Winners (from left): Deb Dlobik, Andrea Ward (scout), Ken Millikin, John Dlobik, Dr. Brent Hoehns (judge), Tom Waite with Dale Creek Tothe Max, Rich Boumeester (judge), John Jungbluth, Courtney Campeau, Adam Delude (scout) with Top Fuel's Holy Hustler, Mike Baker, Mike Baker's son, Brian Lick, Ed Liermann, Chris Fields, and Sam Nutting.

The 2022 NBHA Northern Regional Championship was held again this year at the Yellowstone Wildlife Management Area, near Argyle, Wis. The grounds are very rolling with plenty of acreage to allow a dog to stretch their legs, yet be willing to stay with you. Mowing was done this past summer and provided more objectives and cover. The 12 O'Clock Field Trial Club hosts a very welcoming, warm event and this year was no different. The field consisted of American Field and AKC Champions, as well as major futurity winners. Thank you to each and every owner and handler who joined this Championship.

The running proved to go well and scenting conditions were very adequate due to ample moisture and brought on by a west/northwest wind. Numerous dogs finished the hour and the Champion, Dale Creek Tothe Max ("Max"), came from the first brace with the Runner-Up Champion Top Fuel's Holy Hustler ("Trudee"), arising from the fifth brace.

Champion Dale Creek Tothe Max is owned by John Dlobik of Eagle, Wis., and handled by Tom Waite, of Dale Creek Gundogs out of Burlington, Wis. Max started his brace with an extreme limb find that produced birds and all was in order. After catching the front, the powerful male setter went on to card three more finds—all well-spaced throughout the hour. Max stayed in touch with Waite and finished well to the front as time was called. He was only scouted to find him standing on his first find.

The Runner-Up Champion went to Top Fuel's Holy Hustler, a liver female German shorthaired pointer. Trudee is owned and handled by Brian Lick of New Richmond, Wis. Brian and Trudee were in the fifth brace of the trial and laid down a sweeping ground application. On Trudee's first find she was able to withstand pressure from her bracemate which resulted in his pick up due to manners. She went on to have two more finds and one unproductive. Trudee was snappy handled with virtually no scouting.

The derby stake started, ran and ended in a snow 'squall'. Three inches of wet slushy snow fell the entire three hours! Even through the elements, many, many dogs showed great promise. This was a strong stake of 12 contenders. Derby placements were secured by three very nice, up-and-comers. "Bud", a male Pointer owned and handled

by Adam Delude of Campbellsport, Wis., took first and showed great handling and forward application. "Flint", a male setter owned and handled by Jack Glover of Missouri, gave Bud a run for his money. His powerful, smooth gait and ability to hit the right spots earned him a second place finish. Rounding out the placements was "Zed", a pointer male owned and handled by Bill Babe of Trevor, Wis. Zeb ran a race that was always in tune with the handler and stayed to the front and applied himself well. All three placements showed application and desire for the entire 30 minutes, even in nasty weather.

The 12 O'Clock Field Trial Club would like to thank our national sponsors—Purina, Garmin, Mule Clothing, Onx Hunt, Gun Dog Supply and Gun Dog Central. We also would like to thank our dedicated dog wagon driver Ken Millikin, and bird planter John Dlobik, for their time and hard work. It is greatly appreciated!

Argyle, Wis., April 1

Judges: Rich Boumeester and Brent Hoehns
NBHA NORTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 14 Entries

Winner—DALE CREEK TOTHE MAX, 1673311, setter male, by Dale Creek Pirate—Dale Creek's Cajun Queen. John Dlobik, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

Runner-Up—TOP FUEL'S HOLY HUSTLER, 1678544, German Shorthair female, by J B Wagoners Lightning—B D K T's Badaboom. Brian Lick, owner and handler.

Judges: Greg Blair and Brent Hoehns
NBHA OPEN DERBY – 12 Entries

1st—ALLWOOD'S GREAT JOURNEY, 1691794, pointer male, by Touch's Diamante—Seranoa's On Guard Annie. Adam Delude, owner and handler.

2nd—GLOVER'S FLINTSTONE, 1691597, setter male, by Islander—Kodiak Island Bird Dog. Jack Glover, owner and handler.

3rd—DALE CREEK ZED BABE, unreg., setter male, by Blair's Witch Project—Dale Creek Cajun Queen. Bill Babe, owner and handler.

“SETTER LEGENDS”—AN INTERVIEW

Hall-of-Famer Buddy Smith, Fred Rose and Mills Hodges

By Calvin Curnutte, Jr.

I am humbled to have the privilege to call all three of these men my friend and mentor. It is hard to put so many years, thoughts and memories into such short answers to the questions I have asked them. I am no writer (my daughter is) but this is my best attempt to put together a little insight from the “Setter Legends”.

[Author’s Note: Please forgive me if there are any errors, as I only know the information I was given and did my best to research details.]

THE LEGENDS

• Hall of Fame Inductee Mr. Buddy Smith, Collierville, Tenn.

Not much introduction is needed for the man that’s been training dogs as a professional since 1960. Three years later he married his wife Clarice, who had just graduated from high school. Mr. Buddy has been in both horseback and walking trials since the beginning, still competing in walking trials as he just won the NBHA National Open Puppy stake with a Merritt-bred pup I supplied him (same the year before). Probably two of the biggest reasons that Mr. Buddy is also known—being the starter and developer of Ch. Shadow Oak Bo (2x National All-Age Champion) and the Buddy Stick.

• Mr. Fred Rose, Pinehurst, N.C. (formerly from New Jersey)

Mr. Fred has been campaigning himself or as an owner since 1982, breeding his own line of dogs—Smoke Rise Kennel—both pointers and setters. He has competed in both horseback and walking trials and is still competing in walking trials. Mr. Fred just won Runner-Up in the USCSDA Southeast Regional Championship at the Hoffman Field Trial Grounds in February of this year, at the age of 84. Mr. Fred is responsible for breeding and developing 3x Champion Smoke Rise Buck (ESM) that Summerhill Kennel also campaigned as well. Ch. Smoke Rise Buck is responsible for many setters on the trial circuit. Mr. Buddy Smith feels Ch. Smoke Rise Buck is one of the key factors to Ch. Shadow Oak Bo’s success.

• Mr. Mills Hodges, West End, N.C.

Mr. Mills was directly involved in the beginning and developing the U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association (USCSDA) with Mr. Bob Lee of Pinekone Kennel fame. They trained together for a number of years developing a string of dogs that were a force to deal with at every trial they attended. They split ways and Mr. Mills started Sandland Kennel, continuing to develop mostly setters to compete in field trials. Mr. Mills competed in both horseback and walking trials. At the age of 88 he still comes to training and rides to observe the dogs. Many dogs from his breeding have contributed to wins at field trials. This year’s USCSDA National Champion is out of Sandland Kennels’ breeding. Mr. Mills and Bob Lee are directly responsible for providing Terry Merritt with Pinekone Babe, the founding stock of today’s Merritt Program.

THE INTERVIEW

1.) What year did you begin field trials? Walking or horseback stakes? What was your first field trial dog’s name? Where was your first field trial?

Buddy Smith: 1960, as an amateur while training with a horseback professional, he then bought his first horse—a grade quarter horse—and quickly found out that he was in need of a gaited horse. Competed in walking trials on the weekends and horseback all-age derby trials during the week. His first dog was a pointer female named Lil

Brown Derby, a heavily marked pointer. Competed in his first trial in Mississippi.

Fred Rose: Mr. Fred believes that the year was 1982 when he started in horseback field trials. He had a white and black female pointer that he ran in an Open Puppy stake in Delaware and received first place. Has been hooked ever since that start.

Mills Hodges: 1983, USCSDA walking trials on Jack and Clayton Myrick’s grounds in West End, N.C. He ran a setter named Charlie in the Open Puppy stake and won first place. And the following week received second place with Charlie in an Open Puppy stake.

2.) Was there a person or trial that influenced you getting into field trials?

BS: Professional D. Hoyle Eaton and NBHA founder Dan Smith.

FR: Butch Beyer, a professional from New Jersey, and Dick Quackenbush

MH: Bob Lee and Jack Myrick

3.) Have you run many English pointers, English setters or other breeds?

BS: A healthy mix of pointers and setters, having developed six National All-Age Champions and one National Open Shooting Dog Champion.

FR: A healthy mix of both and lived in a residential area of New Jersey called Smoke Rise, taking that on as his kennel name.

MH: Mainly English setters until the last few years; He has added a few pointers to the kennel.

4.) A dog or dogs that you will never forget about competing with?

BS: He has three that he talked about and mentioned mostly: War Bond, Lehar’s Main Tech and Shadow Oak Bo. Mr. Buddy has developed so many that there’s not enough space to print all of the names. He truly loves developing a quality young dog and really enjoyed running them in horseback all-age derby stakes.

FR: His first Champion, Weekend Warrior, came to mind. Also, setter male Smoke Rise King that he ran in an Open All-Age stake against the big boys and won. Smoke Rise Buck was in there as well with a big win at a trial on the Smith Plantation that the Rays call home.

MH: He has four that came to mind right away—Sandland Black Orchid (SF), Bob Lee’s Star (SF), Boy Toy (SM) and Charlie (SM), his first puppy he won with. Competing at the National Amateur Walking Championship with Bubba and Boy Toy, Mr. Mills won the championship and the runner-up that day.

5.) Your favorite trial grounds to compete at?

BS: Percy Priest, Nashville, Tenn., and the Ames grounds at Grand Junction, Tenn.

FR: Without hesitation, he answered Hoffman Field Trial Grounds in North Carolina.

MH: Public grounds in Florida that are no longer in use. He also really enjoyed Jack Myrick’s grounds in West End, N.C.

6.) Most memorable encounter at or during a field trial?

BS: Being inducted into the AF Hall of Fame in 2000. He was given a phone call while attending summer camp in the Dakotas and was absolutely stunned and honored for the privilege to join the other greats in the Hall of Fame. He also had a very special all-age invitational that had two dogs make the callback, and Tom Honecker and Andy Daugherty helped scout for him, eventually earning the Runner-Up Championship title for one.



CALVIN CURNUTTE
Cell: (910) 995-7902
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FR: John Ray judging him at Hoffman and running in the Open Shooting Dog Championship braced with Luke Eisenhart. Dog was crushing the course that day and after being told to pickup, having to ride like a bat out of hell to find the dogs to the front, they found him on point standing and Luke said, 'you've already won it, don't chance it.' So he picked him up and didn't take the find only to not be used in the results.

MH: At an early trial where you had to point, back and retrieve he made the callback and had to beat Paul Mason. Mills got his first dog finished then they went to get his next dog to run against Paul Mason's dog. When they went back to the trucks and the dogs on the chain gang, Mr. Mills found his Charlie (SM) mounted on Bob Lee's Frosty and tied up. So, they had to wait awhile and then were able to run. Mr. Mills placed first and third that day. Setter male Charlie had a complete day of working and relaxation.

7.) Who was your biggest adversary while competing?

BS: Horseback—Jimmy Curvis and Hoppy Hobson.

FR: Roger Martin, a competitor and great friend, who also helped him train and scouted for him, and the competitors in South Carolina.

MH: Paul Mason from Goldsboro, N.C.

8.) Have you had to deal with a horseback train wreck during a trial?

BS: Once in Dancyville while running a dog, Mr. Buddy and horse fell into a large sinkhole, big enough to engulf the entire horse. They had to dig and use a chainsaw to cut the horse out of the hole.

FR: He had an over the handle bars fall going up a hill during a trial at Hoffman, with Gary Winall and Mike Hester having to give a little assist, and then back to handling the dog.

MH: He was running Boy Toy at H. Cooper Black, S.C., and doing very well during the stake, according to the judges, told to pick up at time and don't lose the dog. He charged to the front to find him, cantering the whole time through the grounds, scanning the countryside. Then, all of a sudden the horse stops and he goes flying over the front. Wondering what had just happened, he then sees the dog standing on point in the brush. The horse had seen the dog and stopped dead!

9.) What's your favorite drill or training session to do with your dogs and did you invent it or see it done and repeated for yourself?

BS: Working and teaching a dog to run to the front, which he states he does at a little faster pace than most. Watched and learned from Ferrel Miller.

FR: Handling and touching, getting the rapport with the dog.

MH: Bob Lee and Mr. Mills used to drive around a really big coastal hay field on the edge, in a pickup truck, pushing the dogs to the front around and around.

10.) What are your words of wisdom for the sport today and into the future?

BS: Support the walking trials. That's where the new and young people get the interest and then some develop into horseback from there. Continue to grow with the youth trials.

FR: Continue to push and work hard, it builds character and do your best to introduce people around you into the sport. Help facilitate them with it.

MH: One of the toughest problems, besides the young people's involvement, is places and grounds to train. Without the training grounds, and losing trial grounds, it will make it harder and harder to compete in trials.

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(No upcoming trials)

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