113th National Championship
February 13-24, 2012
Ames Plantation

Covering the National Championship since 1986

Touch's Whiteout (Sam) 2011 National Champion
Co-owner/Handler Ike Todd, Co-owner Keith Wright
Scout Nick Thompson

(photo by Vera Courtney)
CONGRATULATIONS to all the competitors in the 2012 National Championship from everyone at Wright Kennels

including Touch’s White Out 2011 National Champion
Sam’s derby season was impressive. He won runner-up in the Georgia Derby Championship with an impressive performance. Other derby wins followed and Sam quickly became a leader in points for the Derby Invitational. Sam’s win of the Carroll County All-Age as a derby was followed by a convincing win in the All-American Derby Championship. Still a derby, Sam was already qualified for the 2011 National Championship.

Sam’s new owner, Tommy Leisfield, elected to send Sam north with Rick Furney. Rick ran Sam in the fall prairie trials but something was missing. Some dogs make the shift between different handlers with ease, others don’t. When Rick headed home after Sam’s second sea-
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(Sam, continued from page 3) front, showing his uncanny sense to know just where Ike was and which way the course was heading. By this point Sam had settled into a stride which could carry him for the grueling three hours. It was a lesson Sam had practiced two days earlier on his home training grounds.

Crossing Turner Road for the second time, Sam made a big swing around the Morgan Swamp and headed back for his third crossing of National Championship Drive. Ike called point when Sam was just a speck to the front. Birds began to lift and a sleeper single was spotted leaving, as the judges rode to the dog for his fourth find in less than two hours.

Across the road Sam was taking in big strides of country to the right side of the course. Ike rode to a better vantage point, where he could watch Sam digging into heavy cover. When Sam saw Ike turn his horse, he made a swing back to the front and was soon spotted on point on the edge of the field before the Keegan ditch crossing. It was a big covey of birds, once again perfectly handled and located for this stylish young dog. There was no doubt that he was keyed into finding birds.

As the course entered the Edward Clark Field north, Sam again popped out front, crossing left in the direction Ike had pointed his horse. Something caught Sam’s attention and he threw his head into the wind swinging back to the right. Within seconds Sam slammed into point on this sixth covey with caution. These birds were once again located, less than 30 feet in front of him. His manners at the flush and shot were those of a polished performer.

When we crossed the last road heading towards the Morgan Swamp, Ike called Sam for a drink of water and a quick shot of honey. For a brief moment it appeared the three hours may have taken its toll on Sam’s performance had set the high water mark. As Ike rode to Sam, all three judges were following him. If the judges had indeed seen Sam moving when the pick up call came, then nothing was official what The outcome of this find wouldn’t matter.

So Ike could collar his dog and leave without attempting to flush, or he could walk to Sam with the same confidence he had exhibited on all other six finds. A quick look at Sam told Ike he had made the right decision. Walking farther in front of Sam, a big covey exploded; Ike fired his gun and Sam held his ground. While everyone knew that this find could not be officially counted, it also couldn’t be erased or deleted from the judge’s memories.

Sam’s performance had defied the odds. With 22 dogs having already competed and 18 more to go, Sam’s performance had set the high water mark. When the trial came to a conclusion four days later, Dr. Carlisle announced that Sam had won the Championship!

The next day Sam was on his way to another field trial: the Carroll County all-age, Carlisle announced that Sam had won the Third Cross Country Championship! Sam is possibly the youngest dog to ever win the National and the Purina award in the same season!

(photos courtesy of Vera Courtney)
WELCOME TO AMES PLANTATION

Rules to remember while you are at the Ames Plantation:

1. Park off the road in areas designated for parking for those not officially involved with the competition. Do not unload on the shoulder of the road. Do not block public roads!
2. All horses must be accompanied by acceptable proof of their current negative Coggins test.
4. Ride on blacktop roads only when absolutely necessary. It is easy for a shod horse to slip on these surfaces, thus increasing the likelihood of injury to animal and rider.
5. During the competition you must not interfere with the judges. It is essential that you stay with the main body of the gallery. Those lagging back will be escorted off the property.
6. Running horses by members of the gallery is not permitted. Boisterous behavior between riders increases the chance of injury and is not acceptable.
7. Alcoholic beverages, regardless of container, are not permitted on the grounds or in the parking areas. Failure to observe this rule will result in your being asked to leave Plantation property.
8. Take your trash with you. Do not litter the grounds.
9. No cooking of any type is permitted on the Plantation.
10. Children under 12 years of age will not be permitted to ride in the gallery unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and no more than one rider to a horse will be allowed.
11. No stallions allowed in the gallery.
12. SPECIAL NOTE: Road traffic will be regulated along Turner road and National Championship Drive from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and along Ames Road-Plantation Road from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
13. Sheriff’s Deputies are present to enforce these and other appropriate restrictions to maintain a safe environment and to enhance the conditions for the main objective, field trial competition. If you do not understand these rules, contact a deputy for a more detailed explanation.
Dogs Running In The 113th National Championship

Let's Wag About It

This year the Field Trial Review is profiling the dogs running in the 2012 National Championship. Some information was provided by the owners and handlers. Other information was provided by the American Field. Field Trial Review expresses its appreciation to the American Field and Field Dog Stud Book for providing pertinent information for these features. Unfortunately, information about all the dogs was not available at press time. Next year, when you find out your dog is qualified, please send information about your dog and a photo of your dog to fieldtrial10@yahoo.com.

Barshoe Busy is a female pointer owned by Tom Faller and Lee West; handled by Andy Daugherty. Winner Oklahoma Open Championship Fall 2008; Winner Continental Open All-Age Championship Spring 2010; Winner Texas Open All Age Championship Spring 2010.

Barshoe Osama Ben is a male pointer owned by Tom Faller and Lee West; handled by Andy Daugherty. 1st Buck-Tuck Open All-Age Fall 2008; Region 8 Open All-Age Fall 2010.

Coldwater Warrior is a pointer male owned by Gary McKibbin and Jim Crawford; handled by Weldon Bennett. Winner American Derby Invitational Championship Spring 2010; Winner Alabama Open All-Age Championship Spring 2010.

Conecuh Station’s Black Rock is a pointer male owned by Tony Gibson, handled by Steve Hurdle. Winner Georgia Derby Championship Spring 2010; 1st Sullivan Field Trial Club Open All-Age Fall 2010.

Connor’s E Z Button is a pointer male owned by David O’Connor; handled by Steve Hurdle. Winner Missouri Open Championship Spring 2010; Winner Border Derby with no preparation other than his normal roading schedule. Will competed and finished the three hours at Ames plantation with three finds. The following year he won the Benton County Open All Age classic along with a repeat win of the Southern Championship. Will has also competed in two consecutive Open All Age invitationals as well. Sired by Erin’s Bad River X Erin’s Gypsy we are hoping Will’s third shot at the National is going to be successful.

Elhew Sinbad is a pointer male owned by Rob Butler and Stan Howton; handled by Andy Daugherty. 1st Central Carolina Field Trial Club Open All-Age Fall 2007; Winner Border International Chicken Championship Fall 2009; 1st Sullivan Field Trial Club Open All-Age Fall 2010.

Erin’s Whiskey River, by Sean Derrig: Will, pointer male owned and handled by Sean Derrig, is in his second year of all age competition and this will be his third trip to Ames. Will qualified for the National by winning the Southern All-Age Championship as a derby. The one hour qualifier and two hour call back is truly a test of an all age dog. Weeks later he returned to Mississippi to win the Alabama All-Age championship just a week before the start of the 2010 national. As a derby with no preparation other than his normal roading schedule, Will competed and finished the three hours at Ames plantation with three finds. The following year he won the Benton County Open All Age classic along with a repeat win of the Southern Championship. Will has also competed in two consecutive Open All Age invitationals as well. Sired by Erin’s Bad River X Erin’s Gypsy we are hoping Will’s third shot at the National is going to be successful.

Erin’s Kentucky Gambler by Sean Derrig: Duke, pointer male owned and handled by Sean Derrig is in his second year of all age competition. Having a quiet derby season Duke’s first major win came on the prairies of South Dakota. Duke as a first year all age dog he won the United States Open Chicken Championship. This was Erin’s Kennels first prairie win and we are very proud of Duke. That same fall Gambler took top honors at the International Pheasant Championship and qualified for Ames. Last year while preparing to run at Ames, Duke fell ill to a kidney infection and we made the decision to scratch him from competition to save him from injury. Duke re-qualified the following year by winning the National Pheasant Championship. Duke is sired by Erin’s Tin Soldier X Erin’s Tiny Dancer.

Erin’s Special Force (CH Erin’s Tin Soldier X CH Hard Driving Bev) is a pointer male owned by John May; handled by Luke Eisenhart. Special Force was RU All American Prairie Championship Fall 2011, 1st Still Water Open All Age Classic Fall 2011, 1st Buck Tuck Open All Age Classic Fall 2011, and RU Georgia Championship Spring 2012.

Gamemaker, a pointer male owned by Dr. Fred Corder and handled by Randy Downs, has had great success this year. Gamemaker had nine placements this year including: CH All American Quail Championship, Spring 2011, RU Mississippi Open Championship and Winner National Amateur Pheasant Championship.

Gamemaker’s sire, Rock Acre Buckwheat (Rock Acre Vindicator - Fiddler Chief’s Nell) dam, Therapy’s Little Bess (Therapy - Buckhorn’s Little Kate) (Courtesy American Field Publishing Company)

Highground Jax Jabba is a setter male owned by Chuck and Kara Kunde; handled by Lori Steinshofer. Jabba is running for his 3rd year at the Nationals. The tricolor English Setter won two championships to qualify for this year’s event: the California Pheasant Championship and the Western Open in Nevada. Jabba is unusual for the Nationals: few dogs from the west qualify, setters are not common, and no other dog has a woman handler.

(continued on page 8)
Dear Sporting Dog Fanciers,

We’re GROWING thanks to you!

Since its humble beginnings in 1991 in Grand Junction, TN, the National Bird Dog Museum has grown dramatically and has developed into a true destination for ALL sporting dog fans! In the beginning, it was a dream of having a place to house a collection of horseback field trial memorabilia and to honor members of the Pointer and Setter Field Trial Hall of Fame. But the facility has grown, diversified, and become a showcase featuring not only many pointing dog breeds, but also flushing dogs, and retrievers. After groundbreaking in May last year, our new Sporting Dog Wing has just been completed – what a milestone!

The facility is a “family friendly” museum. The Wildlife Heritage Center and William F. Brown Library also offer educational opportunities for the mature citizen and young folks alike. All of this is paid for by generous donations! Please join our growing base of patrons and become a benefactor of the Bird Dog Foundation, Inc. The cost is only $50.00 annually (just $10 for youths under 18 years). With your membership, you will receive a unique cap and window decal proclaiming your support.

Your membership is very important to the future of our facility – join now! Your support is always appreciated!

Thank You,
The Directors
The Bird Dog Foundation

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Previous National Championships Also Available!

2011 National Championship

Touch’s Whiteout
Owned by Keith Wright & Rick Todd
Handled by Rick Todd

photo not available at press time
Houses River Fever is a female pointer owned by Eddie Sholar; handled by Billy Wayne Morton. Winner All-America Prairie Championship Fall 2010; Winner Southeastern All-Age Championship Spring 2011.

Idaho Clean Sweep is a pointer male owned by Pat Taylor; handled by Sheldon Twer. “As a young dog, Tuff always seemed to find birds. However, he did not run enough to get a derby placement. As he matured and adapted, that all changed considerably. I am working now to get him as effective in the South as he is in the Pacific Northwest, where he has won 7 Championships. (from handler Sheldon Twer)

In The Shadow, 2010 National Champion, is a pointer male owned by Carl Bowman; handled by Robin Gates. This season “Buster” won the Pelican Open All Age, the Sunshine Open All Age, and the Continental Championship.

Carl and Dianne Bowman remember Buster as a puppy, “Once he was home at the Bowman house, Buster quickly became the constant companion of both Carl and Dianne. When Dianne first placed Buster in her car, he found that he had an older traveling companion, a female pointer that was Diane’s house dog. Buster immediately saw how this female behaved and he immediately sat in his seat as if he had been born there. House breaking Buster was easy; in fact Buster took to everything almost immediately, evidence that he was blessed with great intelligence. With a free rein of the yard and house, walks every day where he had the chance to find and point wild quail and the daily trips to Starbucks, the bank and the race track; Buster had fallen head long into bird dog heaven.”

L.J. Confidential is a pointer male owned by Earl Connolly; handled by Steve Hurdle. Winner Continental Derby Championship Spring 2009; Winner National Derby Championship Spring 2009; 1st Missouri Open All-Age Spring 2010; Winner Dominion Open Chicken Championship Fall 2010; 1st North Carolina Open All-Age Spring 2011.

Lester’s Knockout is a pointer male owned and handled by Tom Liesfeld. Winner of the 2011 National Derby Championship. First time at the National.

Lester’s Storm is a pointer male owned by Dr. Davey Deal and Dr. Ron Deal; handled by Lee Phillips. Lester’s Storm is sired by Lester’s Snowatch, out of an Addition’s Go Boy bitch. Both of his qualifying wins were on the prairie and include the 2009 Southwestern Championship at Trail City, South Dakota and the 2011 All American Open Prairie Championship at Kennebec, South Dakota. Other significant placements include Runner Up in the 2010 Southwestern Championship. He was purchased by Drs. Ron and Davey Deal in early 2009 from Gary Lester and has been with Lee Phillips since then. He has had numerous quail shot over his finds on Chickasaw Plantation near Albany, Georgia.

Lester’s Snowatch is a pointer male owned by Brad Calkins; handled by Andy Daugherty. Winner Saskatchewan Open Chicken Championship Fall 2010; Florida Open All-Age Championship Spring 2011; Texas Open Championship Spring 2011.

Miller’s Happy Jack is a pointer male owned and handled by Gary Lester. He is a four-time champion. This is his 3rd appearance in the National Championship.

Patriote is a pointer male owned by Gary and Sally Lockee; handled by Colvin (“make it lite on ya self”) Davis. Winner Alabama Open All-Age Championship Spring 2009; 1st Broomhill Open All-Age Spring 2009; Winner Manitoba Open Championship Fall 2010.

Phantom’s Last Dime is a pointer male owned by Larry Lee; handled by Robin Gates. Winner National Pheasant Championship Fall 2006; Winner All-America Open Prairie Championship Fall 2007; Winner Masters Open Quail Championship Fall 2009; 1st Sunshine Field Trial Club Open All-Age Fall 2009; Winner Kentucky Open All-Age Championship Spring 2011.

Phillips Time Line is a pointer male owned by Rick Stallings; handled by Colvin Davis. 1st Pelican Open All-Age Fall 2008; 1st Broomhill Field Trial Open All-Age Fall 2010.

Phillips White Twist is a pointer male owned by Butch Houston; handled by Robin Gates. 1st Sunshine FTC Open All-Age Fall 2007; 1st Broomhill Open All-Age Fall 2008; Winner Saskatchewan Open Chicken Championship Fall 2009; Winner Dominion Open Chicken Championship Fall 2011.

Poison is a pointer male owned by Ronnie F. Spear; handled by Randy Downs. Poison’s qualifying placements were the National Free-For-All Championship Spring 2007; U. S. Open All-Age Championship Fall 2009. He re-qualified for the 2012 National Championship with: 1st Solatex Field Trial Club Cajun Open All-Age Classic, Spring 2011and 2nd Hell Creek Field Trial Club Open All-Age, Fall 2011.

Prairieland Pride is a pointer male owned by Donald R. Chase; handled by Randy Anderson. Prairieland Pride, Ted, was sired By Champion Miller’s Date Line - Dam Mohawk Mill Corky. The breeder was James Willard of North Carolina.
Best of Luck to All Contenders in the 2012 National Championship
from Randy Downs Kennels • Rienzi, MS
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CH. GAME MAKER
Dr. Fred Corder, Owner
CH. All American Quail Championship 2011
RU • MS Open Championship
CH. National Amateur Pheasant Championship 2011

CH. SURVIVOR’S LITTLE BILL
Blake Kukar, Owner
CH. American Quail Classic 2011
CH. Prairie Open All Age 2011
CH. North Dakota Open All Age 2011
CH. Missouri Open All Age 2011
RU • Alabama Open All Age Championship 2011

CH. POISON
Ronnie Spears, Owner
CH. Solatex Field Trial Club Cajun Open All-Age Classic 2011
RU • Hell Creek Field Trial Club Open All-Age 2011

We recommend and feed Purina

PURINA®
Dogs Running In The 113th National Championship

Lester’s Tom Cruise

His early development came from Mr. Ferrel Miller of Murray KY. Ted is a 7 X Champion, 7 X Runner Champion with a Total of 20 wins. He has produced 14 winners totaling 50 wins. Ted was previously owned by Dr. Bob Cook of Kenosha, WI. Ted qualified for the National Championship coming out of his derby year by winning the Continental Derby Championship and the All-American Derby Championship. He went on to win RU up in the American Derby Invitational, earning the top Derby spot in 2006. Ted has re-qualified as a contender at the National Championship every year since.

Ted lives in the house with handler Randy Anderson during field trial season. Randy says, “When going to bed he takes a considerable amount of time adjusting his pillows to suit him. Then he gets his favorite treat of Butterscotch pudding. He enjoys this special treatment that comes with the long days in the field getting ready for our most prestigious Field Trial.”

Miller’s Happy Jack

Phantom’s Last Dime

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Quester is a pointer male owned by Margret Fornear; handled by Ray Warren. Winner Mississippi Open Championship Fall 2011. Winner National Pheasant Championship Fall 2011. Winner Continental Open All-Age Championship Spring 2012; RU International Pheasant Championship, RU Missouri Championship


Scooter first Qualified for Nationals before his third birthday, competing at Ames for the first time as a 3 year old. 2012 will be his second time competing at the National Championship at 4 years old. There were 6 puppies in Scooter’s litter, arriving at Robertson’s Kennel at 16 weeks old. Three have been campaigned by Rich Robertson, Jr. The 3 dogs have 5 Championships and 3 runner up Championships. Scooter’s litternate Sister Rebel’s Debutante (owned by Gerald Hignite of Elizabethtown, KY) won the 2011-2012 National Amateur Chukar Championship (which was won by their mother in 2008). Scooter’s other littermate sister, Youngstown Thrillseeker (owned by Neal Mason of Calgary, Alberta) won the 2010 California Bird Dog Championship, which their mother won in 2007 and 2008.

Shadow Oak Bo is a setter male owned by Butch Houston and Dr John Dorminy; handled by Robin Gates. Winner Continental Open All-Age Championship Spring 2011; 1st Broomhill Open All-Age Fall 2011.

South’s Late Night is a pointer male owned by John Milton, Gary & Becky Futch, Franz & Karen Rowland; is handled by Tommy Davis. 1st Sullivan Field Trial Club Open All-Age Fall 2007; Winner Georgia Quail Championship Spring 2008; Winner Continental Open All-Age Championship Spring 2008; Winner Continental Open All-Age Championship Spring 2009; Winner North Carolina Open Quail Championship Spring 2010; Winner Masters Open Quail Championship Spring, 2010; 1st Southern Pines Open All-Age Spring 2011.

Strut is a pointer male owned by Jimmy Lee and Tommy Davis; handled by Tommy Davis. Winner American Derby Invitational Championship Spring 2007; Winner Continental Derby Championship Spring 2007; Winner National Derby Championship Spring 2007; Winner Southwestern Open All-Age Championship Fall 2007; 1st Lee County (GA) FTC Open All-Age Fall 2007; Winner Tar Heel Open All-Age Championship Fall 2008; 1st Blackbelt Open All-Age Fall 2009; Winner Georgia Quail Championship Spring 2010; 1st North Carolina Open All-Age Spring 2010; Winner Southwestern Open All-Age Championship Fall 2011; Winner Tar Heel Open All-Age Championship Fall 2011.

Survivor’s Little Bill is a pointer male owned by Blake Kukar; handled by Randy Downs. Bill was given to Blake Kukar as a house warming present by Hall of Famers Bill and Linda Hunt when Blake moved to Danville, TN. Bill is a descendant of Hall of Famer Rebel Wrangler through his grandson, True Survivor, bred to National Champion Whippetwill Wild Card, by female Whippetwill Bet. Bill won his very first field trial that he entered. He never looked back, qualifying for the Derby Invitational. Bill’s win total includes twenty-five places this year: 1st American Quail Classic Fall 2011; 1st Prarie Open All Age Fall 2011; 1st North Dakota Open All Age Fall 2011; 1st Missouri Open All Age Spring 2011. When Bill is not actively training he is a well loved house pet in Blake’s home

Survivor’s Real Deal is a female pointer owned by Howard Brooks; handled by Mark McLean. Winner Continental Derby Championship Spring 2008; Winner Georgia Quail Championship Spring 2009; 3rd Southern Pines Open All-Age Spring 2011.

Touch’s Whiteout, 2011 National Champion, is owned by Keith Wright and Ike Todd; handled by Ike Todd. Winner All-America Derby Championship Spring 2010; 1st Tootsie Hurdle Open All-Age Fall 2010; Winner National Championship Spring 2011; Winner Missouri Open Championship Spring 2011.

White’s Solid Reward is a pointer male owned by John & Susan Ivester; handled by Robert Henry. 1st North Carolina Field Trial Assn Open All-Age Spring 2008; 1st Central Carolina Open All-Age Fall 2009; Winner Tar Heel Open Championship Fall 2010.
2004 National Open Shooting Dog Champion
2x CH. SPIRIT’S BLAZE

GOOD LUCK TO ALL CONTENDERS in the “2012” NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

We would like to thank ALL of our owners for their loyal support throughout each year...and congratulations to the following owners and their “2012” National qualifiers!

David O’Connor—CH. Shell Creek Coin & CH. Connor’s EZ Button
Doug Arthur—CH. Thunder Snowy
Bob Walthall & Thorpe McKenzie—CH. Chief Two Feathers
Earl Connolly—CH. L. J. Confidential
Tony & Becky Gibson—CH. Conecuh Station’s Black Rock

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Dogs Running In The 113th National Championship

Poison

PrairieLand Pride

Quester

Rivertons Funseek'n Scooter

Shadow Oak Bo (Chris Mathan photo)

South's Late Night

Congratulations and Thanks to Allen Vincent on requalifying Barshoe Osama Ben in 2012
Bob Gum and Lee R. West, owners

Best Wishes to ALL in the 2012 National Championship

South’s Late Night
Owners: John Milton, Gary & Becky Futch
Franz & Karen Rowland
Handler: Rick Furney
National Champion

CH. In the Shadow

CH Miller’s White Powder
X Doerr’s Claire’s Shadow
by CH Joe Shadow

Proving to be a Great Champion and an Outstanding Sire

Thanks To
Robin Gates, Handler and Hunter Gates, Scout for another successful Field Trial season

This season, Buster has won the Pelican Open All Age, the Sunshine Open All Age, and the Continental Championship (so far)

Good Luck to everyone in the National

Carl Bowman, Owner
Robin Gates, Handler - 229.881.5103
Lori Steinshouer and Highground Jax Jabba arrived in Tennessee in early January, setting up headquarters in Hickory Valley, TN at the farm of good friend Mary Ann Hughes. Lori and her husband Doug, also a dog handler, packed up their horses and dogs and made their annual journey from Reno, Nevada to compete in the National Championship. Jabba is running for his third year at the National. The tri-color English Setter won two championships to qualify for this year’s event: the California Pheasant Championship and the Western Open in Nevada.

Jabba is unusual for the Nationals: few dogs from the west qualify; setters are not common; and no other dog has a woman handler.

Lori’s first trip to Tennessee was in 1999 for the 100th running of the National Championship at Ames Plantation, where she made history as the first woman handler ever to participate, handling a pointer Redrock Shadow. She qualified Redrock Shadow for three years, and later his son Redrock High Country for four years. She remains the only woman handler to qualify dogs for the National.

Lori’s first trip to Tennessee was in 1999 for the 100th running of the National Championship at Ames Plantation, where she made history as the first woman handler ever to participate, handling a pointer Redrock Shadow. She qualified Redrock Shadow for three years, and later his son Redrock High Country for four years. She remains the only woman handler to qualify dogs for the National.

Jabba’s preparation for running in the south begins after a brief rest from the three-day trip from Nevada to Tennessee. The climate and terrain of the south are very different from where Jabba usually hunts, so for six weeks Lori takes him to field trials and practice facilities in Georgia, Mississippi and Arkansas, as well as conditioning him in the area around Ames. “It is critical to acclimate him and get his mind on the different terrain and cover here in the south,” Lori says. “Everything is different: the birds, the mud, the briars, the wet air. He’s accustomed to steep, rocky soil and arid conditions.” Lori relies heavily on invitations and good friendships, which allow her and Jabba to use top-notch facilities with live birds to prepare Jabba. Friends Bubba and Amy Spencer have supported Lori’s and Jabba’s needs in countless ways, including providing training grounds. Bubba scouts for Jabba in local trials as well as the National.

Back home, Lori is an avid Chukar hunter, setting out on foot in the mornings from her home to spend the day running her dogs in the open terrain of Nevada. Her place is back door to thousands of acres of government-owned land where there are endless possibilities of places to hunt and train, and she can easily spend days climbing the steep terrain following her dogs. She is as passionate about Chukar hunting as she is about field trialing. For field trail conditioning, she knows she is fortunate to have the Nevada spaces to work on. She doesn’t have to own big expanses of land, or groom them for dogs, or feed birds. She has wonderful access to natural training grounds, but she also trains in other places like South Dakota, Idaho, and Canada.

Lori feels fortunate to have met Jabba’s owners Chuck and Kara Kunde. She was a struggling amateur living her passion for dogs and horses when she was introduced to them by her good friends and talented dog trainers, Mike and Nicky McGinnis.

Chuck, also an avid Chukar hunter, had a litter of Setter puppies on his ranch in Oregon, which he had taken to Mike for initial training. Mike kept two brothers from this litter that he thought were exceptional, and he told Chuck and Kara they should field trial these two. Mike knew the Steinshouers were very committed amateurs, so Lori and Doug were introduced to the Kundes and Jabba, and really connected with them. Lori says, “The Kundes appreciate that they were fortunate that the stars lined up the way they did. Jabba is very special.”

Now the Kundes attend most of Jabba’s trials, riding in the gallery so they can watch their dog. They have recently started hosting some championships on their beautiful ranch in central Oregon. With abundant wild Chukar and Hungarian Partridge, this new venue is a gift to the western field trial community.

Lori works for only one owner and can focus completely on their dogs. “It’s a much more personal feeling,” she says. “I do this for the passion I have for the dogs. If I had too many dogs and (Continued on page 45, Jabba)
Erin Kennels and Stables
16414 1000 North Avenue
Tiskilwa, Illinois 61368

Good Luck To All Competitors In The 113th National Championship

**CH Erin's Whiskey River**
Erin's Bad River X Erin's Gypsy

- 4 X CH 1 x RUCH
- 3rd Piasa Open Derby, Fall 2008
- 2nd U S Chicken Championship Open Derby, Fall 2009
- Winner Southern Championship, Jan 5th, 2010
- 3rd Cajun Open Derby, Jan 23, 2010
- 3rd Cajun Open Derby, Jan 23, 2010
- Winner Alabama Open All-Age Championship, Jan 30th 2010
- R-U Region 5 Amateur All-Age, Nov 6th 2010
- 3rd Kentucky Lake Open All-Age, Dec 4th, 2010
- Winner Benton County Open All-Age, Dec 4th, 2010
- Winner Region 6 Amateur All-Age Championship, Dec 9th 2010
- Winner Southern Championship, Jan 4th 2011
- 2nd Rend Lake Open All-Age October 2011

**CH Erin's Kentucky Gambler**
Erin's Tin Soldier X Erin's Tiny Dancer

- 3 X CH
- 2nd - 76th American Field Pheasant Futurity, Fall 2009
- 2nd - International Pheasant CH Open Derby, Spring 2010
- 1st - FTCI Winners Classic Open Derby, Spring 2010
- Winner - National Pheasant Championship Fall 2010
- Winner - US Chicken Championship 2010
- Winner International Pheasant Championship Fall 2011

**Erin's Special Force**
CH Erin's Tin Soldier X CH Hard Drivin Bev

Owner: John May
Handler: Luke Eisenhart
- 3rd American Field Pheasant Futurity, Fall 2008
- Runner-Up All America Prairie Championship Fall 2011
- 1st Still Water Open All-Age Classic Fall 2011
- 1st Buck Tuck Open All Age Classic Fall 2011
- Runner Up Georgia Championship Spring 2012

email: sean@erinkennels.com
Rocky Run (farm): 815-646-4640
Ike Todd: Road to The Top
By Brad Hartner

The road to becoming a professional bird dog trainer can have many different routes. For young Ike Todd from Bozeman, Montana, the road to becoming a professional bird dog trainer was a direction he wanted from early childhood. His grandfather had foxhounds, but his fascination with what a bird dog could do in the field began with the gift of a Springer spaniel from Ike’s mother to his dad, John. Countless hours in the field hunting, whether duck hunting or chasing pheasants, sharptails or Huns over the prairies, became a passion that infected young Ike. Ike and his dad went to field trials in the Bozeman area, especially enjoying the NSTRA events.

By the time Ike turned 15, he wanted a dog of his own to train from a puppy. His father John had a German Shorthair, and Ike wanted a pointing breed. When a litter of German Wirehairs were born nearby, from a mother (Reba) he had seen perform in the field, he found one special female in the litter. He named this pup Rosie. From the day Ike carried Rosie home, the two of them became inseparable. Rose turned out to be everything Ike expected. Soon they were winning field trials throughout the local region. Ike’s mother Mandy remembered, “Ike was going to high school, but his heart was into spending as much time as he could in the field with Rosie.” Ike worked after school for a local bird dog trainer named Butch Nelson. He spent two summers at Butch’s camp in Montana where he began to hone the skills that would propel him and Rosie to the top of their game.

Ike was becoming hooked on dogs and the sport of field trialing. Graduating from high school meant that Ike could devote full time to his passion of training bird dogs. With a $200 truck and 14 local dogs to pay the bills, Ike headed north to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation to establish his own training camp. That summer he also met Charlie Hjerpe and Bob Willmon.

The next two summers in that camp with his 14 dogs became another turning point in Ike’s life. He subscribed to the American Field, reading it from cover to cover. He devoured every book about dogs and training that he could find. Then a chance contact by his old friend and employer Butch Nelson would open doors that changed the path of Ike’s life.

Butch was judging a regional amateur championship at Mortlach, Saskatchewan. Butch invited Ike to come up and see what the all-age prairie game was about. Ike arrived one evening in time for dinner at the local café. Seated across from Ferrell Miller, Ike was introduced to a man he had been reading about for years. The next day Ike witnessed two performances that he would forever remember.

It was hot and dry, the temperature well over 80 degrees, when Ferrell Miller turned loose a classy female called Kentucky Belle. In her hour she pointed six times, perfectly handling chickens with style and class that Ike had never seen before. She seemed oblivious to the heat and her game manners were impeccable. Then Ferrell put Miller’s White Powder on the ground and a Prairie fire was underway. Powder ran faster, ran bigger and pointed birds farther to the front than Ike had ever seen before. Powder was the winner of the stake. Ike returned to his camp, remembering every move these dogs had made.

In 2002 Ike answered an ad in the American Field for a private training position in New York. While working in New York, Ike purchased a puppy from Calico Kennels, whom he registered as Duck Creek Abe. With the same work ethic and program that had worked before, Abe began to win trials and in 2003, Abe became the first Montana dog of the year.

By 2003 Ike entered Montana State to pursue a degree in animal science. With a 4-point grade average, Ike’s heart was still in the field with his dogs. During Christmas break Ike went to Kentucky to learn from the master, Ferrell Miller. Those three weeks were the beginning of three summers spent working dogs on the prairies alongside his friend Ricky Chism under the tutelage of Ferrell Miller.

In 2005 Ike accepted a job at Southern Heritage Plantation in south Georgia. The untimely death of Ricky Chism in February 2006 set another course in motion for the 23-year-old pro. Joe Don House and Gary Lester offered Ike employment. Ike jumped at the chance and the Company was formed in 2006. Ike soon won his first major all-age Championship when he handled House’s Memphis May in the Georgia Derby Championship.

When Lester’s Snowwatch won the National Championship and the Purina Award in 2009, Ike was scout to this incredible young dog and had been involved with much of his development.

(Continued on page 44, Ike)
Good Luck To All The Participants

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Back in the mid 1920’s - 1930’s, a Llewellyn English Setter named Jim was known far and wide for his psychic powers and amazing feats of understanding and knowledge. Jim lived and hunted for most of his life in Marshall, Missouri. He belonged to Mr. Sam VanArsdale who used him as a hunting dog, bagging over 5,000 quail with him. Jim was named the Hunting Dog of the Century by Outdoor Life magazine for his aptitude and intelligence in hunting.

The story goes that Mr. VanArsdale received the puppy Jim as a joke gift. Sam said that Jim was the ugliest puppy ever, and when he was sent to the hunting kennel for training, he was a washout because he was completely uninterested in paying attention to the trainer. But when Jim went home, Sam hunted him anyway, and he had an uncanny ability to always know where the birds were.

At age 3, it became clear to Mr. VanArsdale that Jim understood human language. While they were out hunting, Sam got hot and tired. He said, “Jim, let’s go take a seat under that hickory tree.” Jim went ahead and sat down under the hickory tree. Sam thought that was very strange, so he tested him with a walnut tree, and again with a cedar tree. Jim sat under the right tree each time. Mr. VanArsdale had to bring his wife to the woods and show her what Jim was doing before she would believe him!

After that, Jim started to gain local fame with his abilities. He was able to locate parked cars by their license plate numbers or their color or facts about their owner. He could pick out people in a crowd simply by being told things like “find the man who sells hardware” or “the man who helps people” or “the girl in the red dress.” If more than one girl was wearing a red dress, Jim would need more instructions like “the girl in the red dress and a bow in her hair.” Then he could fulfill the command! His abilities with identifying color are even more notable since dogs are said to be colorblind. In a test given to him at a grocery store, he was told to find the can that contained something horses eat. He picked the can of corn. Jim’s fame grew and he traveled the country giving performances.

He chose the winner of seven Kentucky Derbies, and accurately predicted the outcome of other events like the World Series and presidential elections. Sam never used Jim’s predictions for financial gain, believing that his friend’s gift was incredibly special and should never be exploited. He even turned down very lucrative offers from Hollywood, because he believed Jim’s talent was a gift not to be abused.

Naturally, there were many skeptics who devised all sorts of tests to trip up Jim. That’s how it was discovered that Jim could read directions. People began showing him written commands, and then he would do whatever the paper said. He could spell, too. Once he was told to find a man wearing a R-E-D-S-W-E-A-T-E-R. He went to a man wearing a hunting coat. The crowd thought there was something Jim couldn’t do, but the man opened his coat to reveal a red sweater!

Not only could he spell, but he could follow directions given to him in any language. Once he was given a paper with instructions in Greek, but he was bewildered. The tester had to admit that there was no command, it was only the Greek alphabet, so, of course, there was no command to Jim.

He was examined thoroughly by the veterinarians at the University of Missouri, and nothing physically abnormal was found. Many complicated tests were given during this examination by professors and veterinarians, and the examination was even filmed. Everyone looked for the “trick” that his owner must be doing to get Jim to do these things. But no trick or use of hand signals or any other means were ever found in Jim’s “performances.” It was finally determined by the veterinary community that Jim possessed unexplainable and supernatural abilities.

There are folks still alive today who remember Jim and are eyewitnesses to his amazing abilities. Animal Planet Animal Legends produced a television show about Jim in 2009. A memorial garden was dedicated to Jim in 1998 in Marshall, Missouri, and his burial site is the most visited at the cemetery. More information is available about Jim at www.visitmarshallmo.com/mm_jim.html.

The Animal Planet production may be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLCpJlfYta.
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Whitney Hill

In the late 1800s, Hickory Valley became a rural retreat for wealthy northeastern businessmen, who built homes and came to the area to enjoy winter sports such as quail hunting and bird dog field trials. The most famous is Ames Plantation, site of the National Field Trial Championships for All-Age Bird Dogs. Hobart Ames, owner of Ames Shovel Works, purchased the property in 1901 and established it as the permanent home for the field trials in 1915.

Ames was not the first to discover the beautiful countryside and enjoy winter sports in Hardeman County. Two other northern businessmen who were avid sportsmen had previously established estates in the area and were instrumental in luring Hobart Ames to the area: Harry Payne Whitney and Herman B. Duryea. In 1898 Harry Payne Whitney chose Hickory Valley as the site of a real estate venture, where he purchased property and built his hunting lodge, Whitney Hill. He was the wealthy owner of Hudson Bay Mining, and his sports interests included thoroughbred race horses and polo; he was a ten-goal polo player. His avid sports interests led him to finance expeditions of the American Museum of Natural History; Rollo Beck, an American ornithologist, bird collector and explorer; and others. Whitney enjoyed quail hunting from his estate in Hickory Valley, where he also fox hunted and trained horses.

His wife Gertrude Vanderbilt was the granddaughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt and the adoptive mother of Gloria Vanderbilt. Gertrude is famous for founding the Whitney Museum in New York City and another one in Cody, Wyoming. Harry and Gertrude entertained their friends and hosted fox hunts at their home Whitney Hill.

Whitney was good friends with Herman B. Duryea, who purchased 14,000 acres of land in Hickory Valley in 1897 and built a house that was one of the most modern for its time. He raised short-horn beef cattle and made innovations in pasture nutrition, increasing production and pasture yields through rotation grazing of lespedeza and cowpeas.

Harry Payne Whitney was influential in luring Hobart Ames to Hickory Valley. Whitney and Herman Duryea were good friends and already had homes in Hickory Valley. The story is that in 1900 they were on a cruise and they met Mr. Ames. He was a sportsman, too, and they told him about their places in Hardeman County. They convinced him to come visit here. He evidently liked it and soon afterward bought what is now the Ames Plantation.

Duryea Plantation

According to the Hardeman County History records by the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, millionaire H. B. Duryea came to Hickory Valley, TN in 1897, where he “purchased thousands of acres of land and built a mansion... This house was the most modern of its time, with carbide lights and a water system that provided the home with bathrooms and indoor toilet facilities. He beautified the grounds with evergreens imported from other localities and bulb flowers imported from Holland. He built huge barns and silos, and brought to Hick-
Herman B. Duryea was prominent in horse racing. His horse Dunbar II was only the fourth American horse to win the English Derby. Duryea was associated with Harry Payne Whitney (who also built a home in Hickory Valley) and Whitney sometimes raced his horses under the Duryea colors. In 1912, Duryea’s horse Sweeper II won the 10,000 Guineas Race in England and in 1914 Dunbar II won the Derby and the Prix Noarelles in France. He was half owner with Harry Payne Whitney of Irish Lad, who won the Brooklyn Handicap in 1903 and Metropolitan Handicap in 1904. Duryea maintained stables in England, France, and the U.S. and was a deputy Steward of the American Jockey Club. At his home in Hickory Valley, he bred hunting dogs and gamecocks. Duryea died at his home in New York in 1916.

Hancock Hall
Completed in 1857, Hancock Hall was built by Dr. John Junius Pulliam, father to Mrs. Lucy Pulliam Williamson and grandfather to Mr. Peter R. Beasley. In 1875 Dr. Pulliam bought Woodlawn from Olivia Michie Winston and she bought Hancock Hall. In 1879, she sold it to Captain William F. Hancock. “For many years it was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter R. Beasley. Mrs. Beasley, the former Ida Lee Hancock, was the daughter of Captain Hancock, and Mr. Beasley was the grandson of Dr. Pulliam, the builder of the home.”

With a century and a half of age and various occupants, there are many interesting stories connected to the house. In 1862 a large body of Grant’s army took possession of LaGrange. According to Mrs. Williamson, Yankee officers took possession of the house in 1861, leaving only three rooms for the Pulliam family, and remained in the house until after the close of the war. Union General Hurlbut’s headquarters was located on the front lawn in 1862, and soldiers pitched their tents in the field in back of the house. Another source reports, “Colonel Mizner, in command, with his wife and small son occupied the front rooms of the second floor. The Pulliam family was allowed to use the three rooms on the first floor. In the rear of the place were the tents of the privates. General Grant had his headquarters here for a short time.”

The house is known for its twin Doric tetraprostyle porticoes. The impressive entrance displays rare Zuber wallpaper, made in France. “This kind of wallpaper was contemporary in the 1850s. It is done with woodblocks, hand printed with a woodblock for each color, and depicts scenes of American Rivers. It is the same wallpaper as is in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House and at Winterthur, the DuPont family home, in Wilmington, Delaware,” said current owner Jill Cox.

The most interesting part of the staircase is the hand rail and balusters that were made on the property. The rail has a unique twist in the curve of the staircase. “The twist was made by boiling the wood in a vat until it was malleable enough to clamp,” Cox explained.

The small building near the east entrance to the house was the “milk house.” “In the mornings, Mrs. Beasley would go out there and skim the cream from the milk,” Cox said. “It was originally a shift shack for the railroad workers and was moved from near the railroad to the home here.”

The small cottage on the east side of the driveway was originally the servants’ quarters. The current owners have completed renovations to the 1850s cottage, and it is now available as a guest house.
Bird Dog Museum Events and Festivities

Several exciting Bird Dog Museum festivities are scheduled during the kick-off weekend of the National Field Trial Championships. The Field Trial Hall of Fame induction ceremonies take place all day Saturday, February 11, 2012.

At 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, all supporters and sporting dog fans are encouraged to gather for the ribbon cutting and dedication for the Bird Dog Foundation’s new Sporting Dog Wing. The event takes place during the mid-day break of the Field Trial Hall of Fame ceremonies. The first donations began coming in for the addition in 2005, and nearly $500,000 was raised. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held May 6, 2011, and work began in July. The new Sporting Dog Wing adds 6,000 square feet to the Bird Dog Foundation’s building complex. Nine different breeds are represented in the new wing, including field trialing English Cocker Spaniels. The field Cocker group was a significant contributor to the construction fund for the new wing. Upright panels throughout the interior add much needed wall space for portraits and exhibits.

On Sunday, February 12, Eukanuba hosts the dinner and kick-off party for the National Championship. It is an RSVP event. Artist Ross Young will unveil his painting of the 2011 National Champion.

Later in the week on Thursday February 16, Anheuser-Busch, Purina, and other co-sponsors host the annual catfish supper. The catfish supper is always a fun event and a good time to mingle and renew acquaintance with owners, handlers, and dog enthusiasts.

The main event during National Championships week is the Hall of Fame inductions on Saturday, February 11.

![Image of a bird and a dog nearby]
Wilson Dunn

Bird Dog Foundation Co-Founder

Wilson Dunn died at the age of 93 on November 24, 2011. He was an icon of the sporting dog world and his outfitting business, Dunn’s Supply, became internationally known. Dunn’s Hardware & Dry Goods in Grand Junction began in 1953. He was in touch with hundreds of bird dog enthusiasts who attended the National Championships at Ames Plantation each year. From these interests, he collected pointing dog memorabilia from all the visiting greats. And from these collections, the National Bird Dog Museum was founded. Mr. Dunn was one of three signers to the original charter of incorporation when the Bird Dog Foundation was formed in 1988.

Together Dunn and his wife Polly owned the 1990 National Field Trial Champion English Pointer male “Dunn’s Fearless Bud,” a 2003 inductee into the Field Trial Hall of Fame and Purina National Champion Dog of the year.

Waldo E. Dodge

Mr. Waldo E. Dodge, trustee of Ames Plantation, passed away in August 2011. He had been associated with the Ames Plantation and the NFTCA since 1950. He first represented the bank (First National Bank of Boston) from 1964-1982. He retired from the bank 1985, and then became Institutional Trustee for Hobart Ames Foundation 1985-2002. Later, he became a Trustee in his own right.

Mr. Dodge was a huge supporter of the National Championship as well as field trials in general. He was a generous donor to the NFTCA, the Ames Plantation and the Bird Dog Foundation. He came to Ames National Championship every year 1995-2011, supported it, both with his presence and financially.

Mr. & Mrs. Dodge donated the Dodge Recreational Facility to the Ames Plantation in 1999 for the employees and their families. It is a state of the art recreational facility, overlooking Lake Dodge, across the road from the Ames Office and Manor House.

Jimmy Hinton

Mr. Jimmy Hinton, Trustee Emeritus of the National Field Trial Champion Association, died in December 2011. Hinton had a love for hunting and spending time on his Sedgefield Plantation, his family land in Dallas County near Katherine, Alabama. He was known for his champion bird dogs, as well as quail and turkey hunting. Each year, Hinton’s family gathered at Sedgefield for a day-long quail hunt, with Hinton continuing to participate even the week before he died.

In 1975, Hinton was inducted into the Field Trial Hall of Fame for raising champion bird dogs. Hinton regularly opened Sedgefield for national and state field trials. In 1998, he received the Governor’s Award and was named Conservationist of the Year for his lifelong efforts on behalf of conservation.
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We'd like to congratulate our Team Eukanuba Members who qualified for the 2012 National Bird Dog Championship - Randy Anderson, Steve Hurdle, Rich Robertson Jr., and Weldon Bennett. They've worked hard to get here and we're proud to be a part of their success.

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**2012 Field Trial Hall of Fame Inductees**

**Pointer and Setter FT Hall of Fame**  
*People*: George Tracy; Hugh J. “Bud” Daugherty (deceased); Leon Covington (deceased)  
*Dogs*: Elhew Hannabel (Drs. Thomas & Robin Morgan, Shawn Kinkelaar, handler); Rock Acre Blackhawk (Thorpe McKenzie); Susan Peters (Henry Weil, John S. Gates, handler (both deceased))

**Retriever FT Hall of Fame**  
*People*: Kate Simonds; Danny Farmer  
*Dogs*: Candlewood’s Ramblin’ Man (Jim & Judy Powers); Fordland’s Bored Out Ford (Sam Milton); Trumarc’s Hot Pursuit (Judy Aycock)

**Spaniel FT Hall of Fame**  
*People*: Ray Cacchio; Jess Sekey  
*Dogs*: Cedar Bough’s Slipshop (Bill Willett); Eagle Brac’s Good Sport (Jim & Kim Naber)

**German Shorthaired Pointer FT HoF**  
*People*: Hjalmar Olsen  
*Dogs*: Rawhide’s Clown (Dierk Davis); Ehrlicher Abe (Linda Cross)

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**Brittany FT Hall of Fame**  
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*Dogs*: Scipio’s Mr Chips (Dick Sartini)

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Tour of the Bird Dog Museum

By Leigh Ballard

Anyone who has toured the Bird Dog Museum has probably spent hours looking at the original art, photographs, prints and sculptures which adorn the walls and pedestals at the museum. One particularly intriguing painting by Ian Lotton of Wahoo Chief hangs on the wall. It is the museum’s “Mona Lisa,” so-called because wherever the viewer stands, the dog’s eyes seem to be looking right over the viewer’s shoulder. An elementary student made this observation on a field trip to the museum, bringing it to the attention of David Smith who now mentions it during museum tours.

The Oklahoma City bombing is etched forever into the memory of this country, and the museum has a permanent reminder of the tragedy. Judge Lee West had an office across the street from the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. Shrapnel from the bombing tore through the window of his office, destroying it and leaving rips and tears in the painting above his desk. That painting is of Barshoe Culprit, painted by John Donaldson. Judge West was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2004, and donated the painting because of its historical significance, and it now hangs in the Bird Dog Museum, a reminder of the terrible events that day.

In the early days of field trialing at Ames, women followed the dogs on horseback in the gallery, but differently than they do today. They rode sidesaddle then. There are several women’s sidesaddles on display for visitors to see and imagine what it must have been like to ride in such a way. There is a picture of Mrs. Hobart Ames in 1925, the first woman elected to the Hall of Fame. She was inducted very early in the history of the Hall of Fame, quite revolutionary for a woman. She enjoyed 30 years of success breeding champion bird dogs.

Jack Harper is there, with a colorful description. It is his old dog truck that sits in front of Bryan Hall at Ames Plantation.

There is Horace Lytle and Smatterbyrd, who after a difficult start, suddenly found her hunting groove and became famous. Horace turned down over $10,000 for her, and that was a whole lot of money in the 1920’s!

In the Wildlife Heritage Center the walls are covered with a “who’s who” of individuals important to the world of field trials. There is a wall dedicated to 31 founders’ plaques and perpetual memberships. Other walls commemorate patron memberships and memorials and great dog memorials.

Outdoors, the John O’Neall Memorial Garden, dedicated to one of the co-founders of the Bird Dog Foundation, continues to grow with enhanced landscaping. The garden continues to memorialize dogs and people with bronze tablets placed in the gardens. The Walk of Champions is a recent way to memorialize dogs. Granite markers are placed along the front walkway, leading to the O’Neill garden.

The sculpture entitled “There They Go” graces the landscaped bed in front of the museum. It was created by Sandra Van Zandt, and depicts John Rex Gates. Mr. Gates is a Hall of Fame member, having won 58 bird dog championships, is now retired living in Bolivar, TN. Another statue, that of the dog Elhew Snakesfoot, was sculpted by his owner, Mr. Bob Wehle. Mr. Wehle was not only an artist and a breeder of high caliber bird dogs, but also a breeder of purebred horses and Holstein cattle.

The Museum is a fine collection recapping the history of bird dogs and bird dog enthusiasts, trainers and owners. The museum is open seven days a week during the National Championships, 9 to 4; Sundays 1-4. Call the museum at 731-764-2058 for more information.

(below) Executive Director David Smith points out vintage photos in a Museum display.
Fitch Farms-Galena Plantation

By Charles Eoff

Fitch Farms - Galena Plantation presented the annual Open All-Age Field Trial, completed on Wednesday, December 14, 2011. The Open All Age and Open Derby stakes commenced Monday, December 12 on the grounds of the Galena Plantation in Holly Springs, MS. The Open All Age stake drew 25 dogs and the Open Derby drew 15 dogs.

The winner of the All Age stake was Stallion, a male pointer handled by Tommy Davis for owner Dr. Davey Deal. Second Place was Dillinger C, a pointer male handled by Randy Downs for owner John Holland. Third Place was Touch's Adam Co., a pointer male handled by Ike Todd for owner Keith Wright.

The first and second place All-Age dogs were braced together in Brace 8: Stallion (Davis) and Dillinger C (Downs). Both dogs were off fast and furious to the front. Dillinger C was called for point at the 5 minute mark and Stallion backed birds were flushed. Dogs were taken on and to the front on the left hand side of the course. Stallion was called for point at the 15 minute mark and Dillinger C was called for point on a different covey at the 15 minute mark as well.

Fast and to the front before Wilson Golden Road, Stallion was called for point on the right hand side of the course at the 25 minute mark and Stallion backed birds were flushed. Dogs were taken on and to the front on the left hand side of the course. Stallion was called for point at the 15 minute mark and Dillinger C backed mannerly. Crossing Wilson Golden Road and fast to the front, Dillinger C was called for point at the 28 minute mark and Stallion backed mannerly.

Fast and forward to the front up a hill on the right side of the course, Stallion was called for point at the 35 minute mark and Dillinger C backed mannerly. Fast and to the front on the left hand side of the course in some tall milo at the 45 minute mark, point was called for Stallion and Dillinger C backed mannerly. Both dogs finished their races wide open. Marshall County Sheriff Kenny Dickerson and Board Member Sonny Hawks were riding in the large gallery. Kenny said, “If they would have let me and Sonny use our shot guns in this brace we would all be eating quail for supper.”

The winner of the Open Derby was Game Master, a pointer male handled by Randy Downs for owner Dr. Fred Corder. Second Place was Dunn’s All Get Out, a pointer male owned and handled by Will Dunn. Third Place was Touch’s Pond Damn, a pointer male handled by Ike Todd for owners Keith Wright and Ike Todd.

The first and second place Derby winners were braced together in Brace 3: It was cloudy and 55 degrees when the dogs were turned loose. Point was called for Dunn’s All Get Out at the 3 minute mark at the left hand side of the course and birds were flushed and all was in order. Up the hill and around the corner to the right of the course Game Master was called for point at the 17 minute mark and birds were flushed and all was well. Both dogs had great races to the front and at the 25 minute mark right before Wilson Golden Road point was called for both dogs and birds were flushed and shot over all was well.

The judges were Kipp Linard of Wentzville, MO and Dennis Auping of New Melle, MO.

Carroll County Amateur Stakes

Carroll County Field Trial Club, Huntingdon, TN

By Jim Atchison

Fifty six amateur entries, all Pointers, travelled to Huntingdon, Tennessee to compete in the three amateur stakes hosted by the Carroll County Field Trial Club January 26-29, 2012. Fourteen Shooting Dogs, 26 All-Age, and 16 Derbies crisscrossed the multiple courses during the four days of running.

William Smith of Moscow, TN and Mark Haynes of Brownsville, TN judged the Shooting Dog and All-Age stakes. Smith was joined by Gary McKibben of Hernando, MS while judging the Derbies. All three judges have extensive field trialing experience.

The majority of the Carroll County grounds are owned by David Williams of Cordova, TN with a couple of sizable farms owned by Harold Miller of Huntingdon completing the acreage needed for the three courses.

Eukanuba helped sponsor the trial by providing certificates exchangeable for dog food for the winners and by making a financial contribution to help offset some of the expenses of the trial.

Shooting Dog Stake

Grass Dancer, owned and handled by Harold Miller of Huntingdon won the nod of the judges for first place with four excellent finds which were run in the rain during the fifth brace. The entire first day of running was rainy and misty, yet Grass Dancer applied herself throughout the hour and ran a very adequate shooting dog ground race. Her four finds were spaced evenly during the hour as they came at 1, 14, 40, and 60.

Cocklebur Treasure Quest, called Ellie by her co-owner and handler, Amy Spencer of Medon, TN, placed second. She had two finds, one at 16 soon after crossing Ball Creek Road and a second at 34 near an abandoned railroad crossing. Ellie also ran in the rain, working in the fourth brace. She was easily managed by her handler, thus requiring little scouting by co-owner, Bubba Spencer.

D W Tootsie Roll placed third. She is co-owned and was handled by Bill Suiter, while scouted by her other owner, Scott Little. Both owners are from Woodlawn, TN. Toots competed in the first brace and had one successful game contact at 19. She also stood at 41, backed by her brace mate with a point and relocation effort that proved unproductive. Soon thereafter she backed her brace mate, at 44, in an unproductive credited to the brace mate and proceeded to finish the hour.

All-Age Stake

Dakota Mystery, owned and handled by David Williams won the All-Age stake. The six year old Pointer made some impressive and distant casts, always showing to the front after every absence. She required little scouting and her one find was independent and far to the front. The sunny day was nearly perfect, with an early morning temperature of 32 degrees.

Coldwater Flirt won second. She was handled by her owner, Gary McKibben, who said the eight year old was now a pet who slept in the house and ate table food. Yet the ageing Pointer made some big swings through Carroll County as she covered the third hour course. Her most impressive cast showed her running aggressively near the Green Allen Springs Road far from the handler, judges, and gallery. Flirt had one find, at 19, along a ridge after finishing the Quiet Place Loop.

Small’s Prime Line, owned and handled by Mike Small of Evansville, Indiana won third. He performed in the eighth brace where he backed an unproductive stand of his brace mate at 15 before moving forward a find a large covey shortly thereafter at 18. The young Pointer had beautiful style on his birds and covered lots of country.

Derby Stake

Litter mates, Rebel Spirit and Rebel Pride won first and second, respectively, in the Derby Stake. They were handled by spouses Angie Williams, first place, and David Williams, second place. The placement Angie Williams’ first time to win.

Spirit had one find at 5. He stayed in contact well and ran a great Derby race, completed with a strong finish. Pride applied himself well and had a find at 10, but was outshone by Spirit as Pride got out of pocket late in the brace and came from the rear at pickup.

Jim Smith showed Chasen Firewater to the third place win in the seventh brace. Firewater looked nice on his birds with a find at 8.

By Charles Eoff

30. 2012 Field Trial Review

(Left to right) Angie Williams with Rebel Spirit, Judge Gary McKibben, David Williams with Rebel Pride, Judge William Smith, Jim Smith with Chasen Firewater, and Danny Stanfill.
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Strideaway

by Chris Mathan

Strideaway is a not-for-profit, online publication dedicated to field trials started by Mazie Davis and Chris Mathan in 2008. Strideaway is excited to announce their website re-design, which is rich in field trial imagery. The new site will have more articles, podcast interviews and stories, both current and from the archives of American Field, more field trial photos delivered through fast-loading photo galleries, links to social media and other field trial websites, and more.

Currently, we are working on a scrolling National Field Trial Championship timeline featuring all the winning dogs from 1896 to the present along, with all their pertinent information. See the above photos to get a preview of the extensive information that will be available.

The new site will be i-pad, tablet, i-phone and android device compatible!

We welcome your thoughts, ideas and photos of field trial grounds and are always looking for contributors to make Strideaway a rich resource for all field trialers.

For more information about or to support Strideaway, E-mail Chris Mathan (chris@strideaway.com) or Mazie Davis (mazie@strideaway.com)

Visit us at: www.strideaway.com
1991 National Championship: Quicksilver Pink (Dorothy)

By Brad Harter

J. F. “Tobe” Stallings had experienced a year of bad luck with bird dogs, but it was precisely that bad luck which placed Dorothy into the ownership of “Tobe” and Mary Nell Stallings. A stroke of good luck placed this unusually precocious pup in the hands of Alabama pro Colvin Davis.

Dorothy was born in August 1985 in a litter raised by S.R. (Tate) Cline and his son Andy. Tate was not one to “red-shirt” his pups, believing that dogs should be registered when they were actually born. The sire of the litter was Whippoorwill Rebel (Jake), Tate’s brag dog who became a two-time National Champion and a Triple Crown winner, capturing the Free-For-All and the Invitational, and was twice named Purina Dog of The Year. The mother of the litter was Whippoorwill High Ann, from Dr. Huffman’s kennels in Mississippi. Anne’s roots traced to Admiral Rex and High Fidelity, well-known producers of great all-age, endurance dogs.

Tate knew that his “Jake” dog was special, although aware of bad luck in the bird dog and field trial game. Head, tail and hip injuries sustained in a dog fight had almost ended Jake’s career in 1983. Then when Tommy Davis, who developed Jake from puppyhood, took two years off the field trial circuit, Jake’s winning streak was severely impaired. When Tate learned that his close friend, Tobe Stallings had lost two fine dogs in a single season, he decided Tobe needed a special dog: a pup out of old Jake.

Dorothy was special from birth and Tate had good reason for picking this orange and white female for his friend. Tate recalled that as soon as Dorothy opened her eyes, she had a smile on her face! That smile became Dorothy’s trademark that greeted Colvin and Mazie Davis every morning throughout Dorothy’s life of nearly 14 years! (Continued on page 34)
The old adage of John Gardner was that most dogs had to run at Grand Junction for three years before all would fall into place. The pattern seemed to hold true for John with Miss One Dot, and for a large percentage of dogs that have won this prestigious title. A three-hour brace, often in grueling conditions, requires dogs to pace themselves and apply every move toward finding and pointing quail. In 1989 and 1990 Dorothy made a respectable showing in the National. By the 1991 National Championship, Dorothy had acquired 15 major wins or placements in the toughest competitions. She was as ready, and Colvin had learned the secret to keep her right!

A variety of training methods are used to prepare for the National Championship. Some dogs are hunted for weeks with large numbers of birds being shot over their points. Others are ground down with long daily workouts to condition them for the grueling three hours. Other trainers put weight on their dogs. However, those trainers who came early to Grand Junction to work their dogs seemed to have an advantage over those who could not train in the area.

Colvin came to the area early, with Dr. Jack Huffman making his Whippoorwill Farm, less than 15 miles from Ames Plantation, Colvin’s training home base. Colvin now knew Dorothy inside and out. There was a fine line to getting her right: not working her too much, nor working her too little. Short workouts with Colvin killing a bird or two from each covey seemed to be the key to keeping Dorothy on her game. The rest of the time Colvin and Dorothy just enjoyed each other’s company and the wonderful hospitality of Whippoorwill Farms.

Dorothy was drawn to run on the second Monday, which was considered a break for any dog. That gave the birds two days without any disturbance, since the dogs don’t run on the weekends. Two days would allow the birds to go back to their customary routines, if they had been pushed deep into the woods and heavy cover.

The first week was rough with rain, and soggy, muddy conditions that go with gray days and cold temperatures of February. Under less than ideal conditions, a number of dogs made valiant bids for the title that first week: Miller’s Silver Bullet handled Kentucky Ferrell Miller; Solid Brass, handled by Fred Rayl; Dunn’s Fearless Bud, the defending National Champion; and setter Tekoa Mountain Sunrise.

No setter had won the National since 1970, and many felt that his performance in the 1990 National finely matched the winner. A record setting gallery with 1,497 riders came to watch this setter’s bid for the title. Sunrise did not disappoint! Four times he pointed birds, once he backed his brace mate, and four times game could not be produced for this stylish setter from Idaho. Others like the Hitch Hiker, handled by Randy Downs, and Meadowbrook Joe, under the whistle of Joe Bush, impressed with strong ground races but fell short in their bird count.

When Dorothy jumped from her box in the truck early Monday morning, Mazie whispered something into the dog’s ear. We don’t know what, but Dorothy had an immediate smile on her face. The weather was nearly per-
fect, with a cold front moving in by afternoon and a light sprinkle of rain. By afternoon the light rain turned to snow, but in the morning brace, conditions were ideal for birds to feed before the approaching cold front. Randy Patterson, another professional handler with dogs in the stake, made a formidable prediction before the breakaway that “the trial would be won that day!”

The morning course breaks away to the northeast across the road from the field trial stables, then curves back to the west and crosses Buford-Ellington Road within the first 15 - 20 minutes. Few dogs settle into hunting mode quickly enough to take advantage of the coveys in this section of the course. In the first week, not a single dog out of the ten who ran the course pointed birds in this section.

But Dorothy was different. She soon pointed to the right side of the course within minutes of the breakaway. Covey number one was located and handled before the first road crossing. Dorothy crossed the first road swinging to the front on her mission to find birds. Followers could only catch a glimpse of her as she went from one bird objective to another.

After crossing Turner Road, Dorothy took the right side of the course and was missing by the time Colvin reached the far end of Turner ditch. Three weeks earlier in the Hobart Ames, she had vanished in this same area. Larry Huffman was scouting Dorothy in the National, as he had in the Hobart Ames. Larry and Colvin had planned for this possibility. If Dorothy took the right side and didn’t show to the front, Larry would go to the spot where he had pointed birds in the Hobart Ames. That’s where Dorothy was, pointing in a small opening in the woods, she wheeled and slammed into point just to the right of the horses. Colvin couldn’t believe his eyes; he had just ridden through this area! Colvin remembered what master Captain Gates had told him years ago: “Always trust your dog; they’ll be right more than wrong, and they have the nose!” As he walked in front of her, two tight sitting birds from a covey that had escaped unseen exploded in front of Dorothy; she had them pinned perfectly! Covey number three was in the books in less than her first hour out.

Dorothy rimmed the big field near Spencer-Govan Hill and pointed on the far side, again deep in the woods. Birds were located perfectly. Five minutes later she repeated this scene near the old Bates Place.

Heading into the Mary-Scott loop, Dorothy took the left side and pointed covey number six along the woods edge. Dorothy made the turn through No Man’s Land and then pointed down along Turner Road edge. Plantation workers told Colvin that birds had lifted minutes before the dog arrived. Colvin elected not to flush or fire his gun, taking his dog forward into the Locust Turn. Once again Dorothy disappeared. Soon she was spotted on point with covey number seven in a deep, brushy depression alongside the Turner Ditch.

Covey number eight came in a thick patch of cover near Turner Road. This time there were two coveys with a single bird flushing back toward Dorothy, nearly knocking her down. Just past Kyle’s Barn Dorothy once again made game with a covey lifting far in front of her. She stopped, honoring their flight and catching their scent. Nine finds in one hour and fifty minutes and she never shifted gears to conserve her strength.

For the next hour Dorothy went everywhere that birds were expected, her desire to find them never wavering. With ten minutes left, Dorothy again made game. Birds lifted far to the front of her just as she established point. Colvin fired and sent the gutsy little female on. A sleeper single flushed wild to her side, and she stopped, honoring the flight of the bird. Dorothy gave the impression that she could go another hour easily. When time was called, Dorothy was still out front making a strong cast to a distant objective.

Dorothy had set the bar with a National Championship performance meeting the Amesian Standard to a T! Twelve more dogs remained to compete, each handler knowing the performance they had to beat. By the end of the trial no other dog had come close to Dorothy’s performance. Dorothy had bested all in bird finding, and she had shown intelligent application and superior stamina. The decision of the judges was approved, and all who had witnessed Dorothy’s spectacular three hours knew she truly deserved to be National Champion.

The following fall Dorothy added five more Championship titles plus a runner-up in the Dominion Chicken Championship. Her record totals 24 wins, ten championship titles, including three runner-up placements. At over 13 years of age, Dorothy competed her last time in 1998.

Dorothy passed away May 3, 2002 having spent her remaining days under the big oaks at Stallings’s Kennel in Alabama with Mr. Tobe’s son, Rick Stallings.

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Ames Heritage Festival

Learning about growing cotton, old fashioned transportation by mule-drawn wagon, traditional music played on the hammered dulcimer (by Marie Kirby), and logging with horses (right) were some of the many things to experience at the Ames Heritage Festival, held every October. (story on page 42)

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Best of Luck in the 113th National Championship
A Sporting Dog Center History

By Capt. Garette E. Locke, USN (Ret)

Located in the small West Tennessee village of Grand Junction is the National Bird Dog Museum - the repository of wonderful art, portraits, sculptures, history and dog related memorabilia that are preserved, displayed and admired by bird dog enthusiasts from around the world. It’s about Retrieving, Pointing and Flushing breeds of sporting dogs!

It is under the umbrella of the Bird Dog Foundation, Inc., which was founded in 1988 to raise funds to build the National Bird Dog Museum. The Bird Dog Foundation functions under a tax-exempt, non-profit corporate charter, primarily as an education and conservation organization with information about the 40 various breeds of pointing, retrieving and flushing bird dogs. The National Bird Dog Museum was dedicated February 16, 1991.

Shortly thereafter, a place to display the prestigious Field Trial Hall of Fame Exhibit was initiated by the Bird Dog Foundation. This special building is devoted to those accomplished canines, sportsmen, and ladies replete with original portraits, photographs and other memorabilia highlighting their illustrious field trial related careers. The Field Trial Hall of Fame serves as an inspiration to canine breeders, field trialers, competitors and other bird dog devotees of succeeding generations, to encourage and to produce great bird dogs and to make meaningful, significant contributions to the field trial sport. The Field Trial Hall of Fame building was dedicated September 24, 1994.

In the Field Trial Hall of Fame, the pursuit of field trialing from its earliest days to the present takes on a realistic dimension for the visitor. The lives of the distinguished persons represented there are inextricably bound with those of the great dogs who inspired them, and in whose company they are commemorated. Personal memorabilia, portraits, photographs, journals, trophies and training accessories of many important and colorful sportsmen and sports ladies honored in the Field Trial Hall of Fame pay eloquent tribute to the past as vivid reminders of those heroes, human and canine, who played formative roles in the development and enhancement of the sport and of the sporting breeds.

To extend the Bird Dog Foundation’s vital conservation mission, construction of the Wildlife Heritage Center building was undertaken. “Game birds make the bird dog.” Hand in glove with any exposition on bird dog breeds that seek feathered game must go a section on the propagation and conservation of game birds and waterfowl. From the native bobwhite quail to the prairie chicken, the colorful ringneck pheasant rooster to the ruffed grouse, the wood duck drake and the canvasback, the habitat and conservation related needs of North America game birds and waterfowl must be studied and understood. The Wildlife Heritage Center was completed and dedicated September 20, 1996. In 2004, the adjacent lot was donated to the Bird Dog Foundation, which serves as a nature trail and outdoor conservation education area.

The William F. Brown Memorial Library, classroom conference/seminar room and auditorium of the Wildlife Heritage Center provides a venue for this important educational component. The Library is furnished with an extensive collection of rare books, history and literature by early and contemporary writers on topics pertaining to sporting dogs, breeds and breeding, hunting, shooting, training, field trialing, game birds and waterfowl.

Through its out-reach programs, the Foundation seeks to promote the man-dog relationship and to inspire a permanent regard for wildlife in general. Field trips are popular with area schools, and youth groups. Senior citizens and tour groups delight with visits to the Wildlife Heritage Center. An annual Scholarship Essay Contest (two annual scholarships are awarded) stimulates a concern for these issues and awards financial assistance to the winning college-bound high school authors. The Foundation’s Annual Sporting Dog Art Contest, open to students in grades K-12 generates several hundred entries each year from schools in the surrounding counties.

The Retriever fraternity promoted construction of a new building to provide the space to display the ever-growing Retriever Field Trial Hall of Fame Exhibit. This building was dedicated on February 7, 2004. An attractive atrium planted with greenery and blooming flowers, 4.5 acres of tastefully landscaped grounds, a meaningful garden memorializing both dogs and people, ornamental fencing, and many life size bronze sculptures of dogs, birds and people encompass “a magnificent sporting dog center.”

From its inception two decades ago, the Bird Dog Foundation has experienced success under the progressive leadership of its Founders: Wilson Dunn, Tom Faller, Gary Locke, Bernard J. Matthys and John S. O’Neal, Jr. Past President, Captain Gary Locke, and a capable board of directors have spearheaded tremendous growth. The Foundation continues to advance its original mission, “Dedicated to preserving the past, protecting the future for sporting dog fanciers the world over.”

Hours are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tuesday - Friday; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday; closed on Mondays. For more information, call (731)764-2058. Visit the website http://www.birddogfoundation.com.

NOTE: On May 6, 2011 a ground breaking ceremony was held at the Sporting Dog Center for construction of another new wing for exhibits highlighting the Continental Breeds. This building should be completed in 2012.

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Happening at Ames Plantation

By Nancy Brannon

Ames Manor House

Quail

“We didn’t have as good field trials as we had hoped in the Hobart Ames and the Ames Amateur,” said Rick Carlisle Director, Ames Plantation. “We have a big population of hawks now – Coopers hawk, red tailed, red shouldered. The quail have gone into survival mode, so they’re not out and available where the dogs can find them. They’re back in the woods, thickets, briars, and honeysuckle. Their mode is ‘if I fly, I die.’ So they stay where the hawks have a hard time finding them. The dogs didn’t find as many because they’re going along the trails cut, along the edge of the woods.

“But when we ran the derby dogs, the young ones not as disciplined as the all-age dogs, they go into the cover more, hunting birds. We found more birds with the derby dogs than we ever have! They got off the beaten path, back in the cover, which is where they found the birds.”

Twelve derby dogs ran in the Ames Amateur, and “six had birds,” Carlisle continued. “Typically derby dogs don’t find; they’re just running. This year they had to find; we had dogs with good races; so they put it all together – which is what they’re supposed to do. Often, with derby dogs, judges have to judge on how well the dogs run the races since they may not have finds.”

For the ninth year, staff put out birds at Ames – on September 15: 3,200 birds, 160 coveys with 20 birds per cover. “We had good survival rates,” Carlisle said, “and wild birds, too.” Carlisle usually bushogs all the field roads and lanes into the release sites around the end of August, first of September. “I found ten coveys of birds while bushhogging. The birds overwintered, nested, and raised broods. The survival rate is not the best we’ve had, but pretty good; better than average. When we harvest crops, we leave corners, edges of soybean and corn fields. We have 225 feed plots, equaling about 30 acres. We have a good feed source plus grain sorghum, so the birds are not lacking for food.”

Ames purchases quail from Quail Valley, with hatcheries in Indian Trail, NC and Albany, GA. “We’ve been working with Stan Redfern (owner) for 12 years. We also get birds from Robert Strickland in Minter, AL,” Carlisle said. “Getting birds from two locations helps with genetics; we get more crossbreeding than inbreeding, plus breeding with the wild population.”

Ames procured the services of tracker Doug McKenzie of Predator Management Solutions to remove some of the perceived predators of quail from Ames. McKenzie removed and destroyed 22 coyotes, 7 grey foxes, 5 bobcats, 9 hawks and 7 skunks, 9 raccoons, 11 opossums, and several skunks.

The National Audubon Society lists Bobwhite quail as “one of Audubon’s Common Birds in Decline; the number of Northern Bobwhites has plummeted more than 80 percent since 1967. The Northern Bobwhite has a high mortality rate, and a high productivity rate. The disappearance of suitable bobwhite habitat, due to large-scale agriculture, intensive pine-plantation forestry, and development, is the most dominant threat to the long-term survival of these common grassland birds. Fire ants, which compete for food, attack nests, and provoke humans to spray pesticides, may also be playing a role in the decline. However, The Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, formed to help bobwhites and other grassland birds, is beginning to reverse declines of bobwhite habitat.” The Audubon Society recommends these actions to help restore Bobwhite quail populations: (1) Preserve Farmlands, especially through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which keeps marginal farmlands idle and supports millions of acres of good bird habitat. (2) Save Grasslands: increase the amount of habitat that can support breeding grassland birds, in particular support protection of open space. Promote late mowing (preferably early August) in hayfields and healthy public and private ranchlands devoted to livestock grazing. Devote large parcels to prairie restoration. (3) Support Sustainable Forests: protection, restoration and expansion of large forest blocks that sustain the full range of forest-loving species. Active management (including burns) to meet specific habitat requirements. Promote long-term management that allows for the maintenance of forest understory plants. (4) Stop Invasive Species: stop the spread of non-native annual grasses. (source: http://birds.audubon.org/)

Dr. Alan Houston explained the factors that impact good quail habitat. “Cows, crops, and chickens” is the shortened term. “You need native, warm season grasses, but many of our pasturelands have been converted to fescue. We have ceased to burn fields, and fire is a quail’s friend. Our cropping system, especially big row-crop farming, is hard on quail. When we coalesce small fields into one large one and improve the walls for large predators with few weeds and hard edges, the quail have nowhere to nest and get protection. So with poor habitats, predators, like hawks, are more effective. Chickens are a litmus paper on the landscape. When the population was mainly rural, everyone had chickens. All predators who like quail, also like chickens.” Evoking the Granny from the Beverly Hillbillies image, Houston said, “So you had a 90-pound woman with a 9-pound shotgun throwing 9 pound shot,” scaring off predators to chickens, which indirectly helped quail populations survive, too.

Cultural Resources Programs

The Ames Heritage Festival, held every October, drew around 4,200 visitors this year to see the Heritage Village and watch crafts and folk artists demonstrate a variety of traditional skills from the 19th century pertinent to the settlement and culture of southwestern Tennessee. “The Festival was great! And continues to grow every year. This year we added a dozen more new folk artists,” said Jamie Evans, head of the program. An emerging facet of the program is the Cotton Education Cabin. “We’re working with Dr. Pat Donald, USDA cotton specialist, and with local fiber arts specialist Joloy Watlington to set up and showcase tools that will show the growth of ‘cotton from field to fabric’ (our theme). We have a barn loft, spinning wheels, and other tools used by pioneers to transform the plant into a useable material,” Evans said.

The Ames Historical Society is active, meeting regularly to work on cemetery preservation, tour of archeological sites, etc. The society has over 200 members now and is seeking more. Membership donations go toward historical preservation efforts at Ames.

The Archaeological Field School continues work in two areas: historical sites of the 19th century and pre-historic sites of Native American settlements. “This summer we worked on Andrews Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church South, founded in the mid 1840s,” Evans explained. “It’s just off Ellington Road, south of Jones Chapel Church. The land was deeded to the church in 1847. It was a log building, probably one room, and served as both church and school. We did a one-week text excavation to see what was there. In two one-meter square excavation sites we found 71,000 artifacts and we know there are lots more!

“I had interviewed Martha Turner Carter a number of years ago. She grew up on the place and her mother had told her about the church and the school. It burned in the late 1800s. All of the information we found from the archeology work supported her recollections. We found evidence of a burned building, with glass melted. We found pieces of slate writing tablets, fragments of graphic pencils and marbles. We found a bottleneck from a broken bottle made of purple glass, which is very rare in this area. It was a hand-blown bottle, thin and fragile. Purple was a hard color to acquire in glass. It comes from manganese, which was only acquired in Germany at the time. It was very expensive in the glass making process. So we think it may have been used with communion in the church.”

Another site is the plantation owned by Fannie Dickens, who was the second wife of Samuel Dickens, an early land speculator and surveyor in west Tennessee – a very wealthy man. He was a member of the North Carolina House of Commons and of the U.S. House of Representatives. Her plantation headquarters and slave quarters will be excavated this year.

The prehistoric site focuses on excavation of a thousand-year-old pre-historic house near a Native American ceremonial center, which includes four mounds at Ames. The “village” house was part of at least 25 houses within the village. “We surveyed, tested, found houses, and this summer excavated a house,” Evans recounted. “It was an upright pole structure with wattle and daub walls; had a central hearth, a storage pit in the floor, like a root cellar. The village was surrounded by palisade walls for protection. Radiocarbon dates suggest the village was in place for about 250 years.” The Field School continues this summer with work on the Indian Village and the Fannie Dickens Plantation.

Structures

The Brick Stables (shown above) exterior restoration is finally complete. The Mule Barn was totally restored. It was built about 105 years ago and the wood was deteriorating to the point that the barn could soon have been lost. Willburn Construction, brothers Justin and Stephen, did the work, replacing all the exterior wood, installing reverse board and batten, and pouring a new concrete foundation.

Forestry, Wildlife, and Hunting

Ames is cooperating with graduate student Brian Hendricks in his study on ticks, looking at the abundance, varieties and diseases they carry. “The tick population is in flux now,” Alan Houston said. “As the deer herd has increased, so has the deer tick, Ixodes scapularis, which car-
Amblyomma americanum, or lone star tick, is on the increase. It is most common in wooded areas, particularly in forests with thick underbrush. "It is the most abundant, human biting tick and the bites look like chigger bits," Houston continued. "Some ticks are active in the winter. Graduate students examined deer in the fall, combing the hair and collecting ticks to identify them and see what disease they’re carrying. We are finding black-legged adult ticks active in winter."

The Quality Deer Management program is a part of this tick research. Blood samples from deer are analyzed. Deer ears and hearts are collected for disease analysis. Hearts are analyzed for toxoplasmosis. "We found that over half the critters captured here, coyotes, raccoons, possums, had it." Ears are biopsied because "ears are where bacteria tend to be found. We are researching cranial abscesses in deer. Bucks get it regularly. The bacterium enters through the cranial structures near the antlers. It is 100% fatal, so we are monitoring it at Ames," Houston said.

Ames has increased their minimum requirement, Boone and Crockett, for hunting. "It was 120" B & C. Two years ago we raised it to 125" and the hunters were worried about it. The first year 7 bucks were killed that met the minimum. Last year 24 bucks killed met the minimum. So our program has protected two-year-olds and 35% of our hunters scored on a big buck. This program protects younger bucks, rebuilds the age hierarchy and behavioral maturity of bucks, balances the populations, and with our managed habitat and managing the hunters, we get very satisfied hunters."

"This year we had the best habitat ever for ducks. We had the best mix of grasses ever and had lots of ducks on our manmade impoundments," Houston reported. "We had a good hatch of turkeys this year, which will be good hunting 2 to 3 years from now. There is a lag time that many people don’t think about it. "Coyotes have been expanding their range for several decades, since the late 1970s, and they were believed to be a new predator on the scene for quail. However, quail populations were already declining by 3 to 4% a year when the coyote arrived. And afterwards, the quail decline didn’t get any steeper. Coyotes are not big quail eaters. They eat rats, mice, rabbits, and fruit – especially persimmons. They also eat insects and sometimes prey on deer, yet deer populations continue to increase. So the coyote hasn’t really impacted any others except the fox. Coyotes out-compete foxes for food and sometimes kill foxes for food. Then when wolves come in, coyote populations drop. But coyote control is essentially non-existent! They just adjust their birth rate accordingly."

Ames is fostering growth of the Northern Red Oak. "We had a good acorn crop, over 16,000 acorns this year," Houston reported. "We take them to nurseries where they are planted and the seedlings come back to Ames. We know their entire genetic lineage and create open areas where they are planted to thrive. This year a young Ph.D. graduate Leila Pinchot was a technician at Ames, planting yearlings and helping with our reforestation efforts. Her great grandfather was Gifford Pinchot!" Pinchot was the first Chief of the U. S. Forest Service (1905–1910). Future research at Ames is nitrogen cycling in young forests.

"Dr. Alan Houston, Ames Sustainable Forestry projects"

"Ames duck habitat attracted multitudes of waterfowl."

"One of several kinds of hawks residing at Ames."

"(below) Rare partial bottle-neck of purple glass found at the Andrews Chapel Methodist Episcopal church site during the 2011 Archeological Field School"
### First Week of Running • February 13-18, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brace</th>
<th>Dog</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>Owner(s)</th>
<th>Handler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>L. J. Confidential</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Earl Connolly</td>
<td>Steve Hurdle</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lester's Tom Cruise</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Brad Calkins</td>
<td>Andy Daugherty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Barshoe Osama Ben</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Robert Gum &amp; Lee West</td>
<td>Allen Vincent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Phantom's Last Dime</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Larry Lee &amp; R. O. Berryhill</td>
<td>Robin Gates</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Barshoe Busy</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Tom Faller &amp; Lee West</td>
<td>Andy Daugherty</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Connor's E Z Button</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>David O'Connor</td>
<td>Steve Hurdle</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gamemaker</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Fred Corder</td>
<td>Randy Downs</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Touch's Whiteout</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Keith Wright &amp; Ike Todd</td>
<td>Ike Todd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Survivor's Little Bill</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Blake Kukar</td>
<td>Randy Downs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Coldwater Warrior</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Gary McKibben &amp; Jim Crawford</td>
<td>Weldon Bennett</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: S indicates Setter. P indicates Pointer.

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### 2012 National Championship Judges

Judges: (left) Jim Crouse of Dixon, KY.  
(right photo: left to right) Bobby McAlexander of Holly Springs, KY and Doug Vaughan of Saskatoon, SK, Canada.

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Keith’s story.

Since childhood Keith Wright had had a love for farming, hunting and the outdoors. By age 15 Keith had acquired his first pointing dog and bird hunting became a passion. In 1995 Keith met Paul Wright, a dog trainer and field trialer from West Point, Indiana, which became a lifelong friendship.

The same year (2005) that Ike went to work for the Company, Keith began to raise puppies for field trailing. Campaigning dogs on the local circuit, he had already set his sights on winning the National Championship. By 2010 Keith’s plan of putting together a string of dogs that could win on the open all-age circuit was coming together. The only element missing was a talented young handler and trainer.

Keith watched Ike during his employment with the Company and appreciated the important role that Ike played in developing many of the fine dogs from the Lester/ Joe Don House breeding program. Keith’s game plan called for creating a unique partnership, in which important decisions would be made jointly. Ike’s knowledge and experience with the dogs would carry equal weight with Keith’s ability to run the business. By spring 2010 Wright Kennels had a full time trainer.

The dog that took them to the top last year has had multiple owners: Touch’s Whiteout, once was known as Lester’s Whiteout, or simply Sam. Fran and Jack Miller, Rick Furney, Gary Lester, and Ike all played a part in his development. In fact, Ike handled Sam to his first qualifying win for the National Championship, the All-American Derby Championship.

Gary sold Sam at the end of his derby season, and when he was for sale again in November 2010, Ike and Keith jumped at the chance to own him. By the end of December Sam was entered in the Tootsie Hurdle All-Age, which he won. At less than three years of age Sam was qualified for the National. Ike proved the value of his partnership with Keith by taking Sam to the championship level.

There is no question that this young trainer from Montana is having an impact on the sport. Three of the dogs that have won the National Championship since 2006 have been in Ike’s camp. Nine dogs that competed in last year’s National were under Ike’s influence at some point in their lives. Ike has won seven open championships, and the Ricky Chism Memorial Derby, three years in a row. Ike and Keith reached the top by winning the 2011 National and the 2011 Purina Dog of The Year. Ike, Keith and Wright Kennels are back again for another go at the National.
Second Week of Running • February 20-22, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brace</th>
<th>Dog</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>S</th>
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<th>Handler</th>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Erin’s Kentucky Gambler</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sean Derrig</td>
<td>Sean Derrig</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Highground Jax Jabba</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Chuck &amp; Kara Kunde</td>
<td>Lori Steinshouer</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Miller’s Happy Jack</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Gary Lester</td>
<td>Gary Lester</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Survivor’s Real Deal</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Howard Brooks</td>
<td>Mark McLean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>In The Shadow</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>John Milton, Gary &amp; Becky Futch</td>
<td>Robin Gates</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>South’s Late Night</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Franz &amp; Karen Rowland</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Erin’s Whiskey River</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sean Derrig</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Quester</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Margret Fornear</td>
<td>Ray Warren</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Phillips White Twist</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Butch Houston</td>
<td>Robin Gates</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Rivertons Funseek’n Scooter</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Matt Coverdale &amp; Gerald Hignite</td>
<td>Rich Robertson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Lester’s Knockout</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Tom Liesfeld</td>
<td>Tom Liesfeld</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Start times are generally 8:00 a.m. and 1:15 p.m., but can change due to weather conditions or the discretion of the judges. Please check the Ames Plantation website http://www.amesplantation.org for daily updates.

Winner of the Joe Hurdle Award is Touch’s White Out, with 2,325 points. Handler Ike Todd (left) and owner Keith Wright (right) accept the award from Mrs. Martha McAlexander at the drawing Saturday night February 11, 2012.

Dr. Rick Carlisle directs Pat Spalding about the procedures for the drawing Saturday night February 11, 2012.

Fish Fry

National Field Trial Championship Social & Catfish Supper • February 16 at the National Bird Dog Museum

Everyone is invited!

Social Hour 5:30 • Dinner 6:30

505 Highway 57 W • Grand Junction, TN

Sponsored by: Nestle Purina • Anheuser-Busch and other co-sponsors

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Gary and Sally Locke,
Colvin and Mazie Davis
are Happy to congratulate all those who come to Grand Junction to compete in the National Championship.

Good Luck!
**BOARDING / LODGING**

Cottage and four horse stall barn available for rent during Field Trials in LaGrange, TN. Sleeps 2-4, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchenette. (901) 497-8868.

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WANTED: Broke field trial TW horse, prefer 4-5 yr. old. Must load & shoe w/ease. Must have good disposition, for a good home, No cribbers; 15 hands. Email: alsbrokers@aol.com; call 406-679-8000.

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**Email**

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**Contribution Form**

**2012 National Championship**

My gift as designated below signals my support to the field trial, wildlife research, education, and public service programs at Ames Plantation which benefit sportsmen and citizens throughout the United States.

My desired participation level is as follows:

- $1,000
- $250
- $100
- $50
- $25
- Other

I desire that my contribution be allocated as indicated (make check to appropriate organization):

- ( ) Hobart Ames Foundation - Funds to be used to enhance physical facilities, field trial venue, and quail habitat.

- ( ) The University of Tennessee for Ames Plantation Development Fund - Monies to be used to support wildlife research on Ames Plantation with special emphasis on quail management.

Name:

Address: ___________________________________________________________________

City: ______________ State: ___________ Zip: ______________

RETURN ALL DONATIONS TO:

Ames Plantation
P. O. Box 389
Grand Junction, Tennessee 38039-0389

CONTRIBUTIONS TO EITHER OF THE ABOVE ORGANIZATIONS QUALIFY AS CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS UNDER CURRENT FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS.

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**HELP WANTED**

The Mid-South Horse Review seeks a dynamic, motivated marketing person. Please call (901) 867-1755 to schedule an interview. Send resume to: editor@midsouthhorserview.com

**Brunswick Stew**

Sportsman’s Pride invites everyone to the Brunswick Stew at Bryan Hall following the conclusion of the afternoon brace on Monday, February 20, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

EVERYONE INVITED!

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**CONTRIBUTIONS TO EITHER OF THE ABOVE ORGANIZATIONS QUALIFY AS CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS UNDER CURRENT FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS.**

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February 11, 2012

Field Trailers

2012 National Championship

Dear Friends:

Mrs. Julia Colony Ames established the framework for our giving program by creating the Hobart Ames Foundation in 1950. Many years ago we offered persons and organizations interested in field trialing and other parts of our operation an opportunity to be a part of this charitable giving program.

We are striving for charitable donations to strengthen our goals of providing superior conditions for the conduct of all-age field trial competition while increasing basic understandings of wildlife, especially bobwhite quail and related predator species. We have enlisted the support of several commercial sponsors for the National Championship but still need your help to continue this important work. Not only will your contributions help support much-needed research but it will also help support the maintenance of the field trial courses for this historic trial.

Funding received to date has resulted in several intensive scientific investigations by research scientists and graduate students from The University of Tennessee, Mississippi State University, Tall Timbers Research Station, the Albany Area Quail Management Project, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, and the University of Memphis. Results of these studies are being prepared for scientific publications and also in a bulletin for field trialers.

We urge you to complete and return the contribution form with your donation, and/or call me at the above phone number to discuss the research underway on Ames Plantation.

Sincerely,

R. J. Carlisle

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**GOLF CARTS**

Blake Kukar (left) and Dr. Rick Carlisle (right) receive Lifetime Patron membership awards from David Fletcher, Secretary of the Bird Dog Foundation.
Stylish on birds is the name of the game. Heads high, tails erect, their intensity shows their desire.

Bird-finding ability relates to genetics; athleticism relates to proper conditioning combined with excellent nutrition. The high-quality ingredients in Purina® brand foods complement your bird dog's breeding, training and conditioning with necessary levels of protein, fat and key nutrients. It's top-caliber nutrition for hardworking dogs.

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