



# NEWSLETTER

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**OUR GOAL:** To Promote, Preserve, and Experience One of the Greatest Southern Traditions Known... Quail Hunting.

## 4th Annual Quail Conference

The Conference will be held indoors at the Alabama Power Building in Clanton on August 18 from 8:30am until Noon with **possibly** an optional field trip in the afternoon. The featured speaker will be Reggie Thackston, who is heading up the *Georgia Bob White Initiative* that everyone is talking about. He will be able to give us a report on how it came about and how it is working out. Yale Leiden who is the regional director with Q.U. & Jerry de Bin who is the Chief of Info & Ed. with AL Dept. of Con. & Nat. Res. will also be there. Jerry worked his way through college in Texas training Bird dogs. We will also have some other speakers that have not been confirmed at this time. This free conference is primarily intended for Land Owners and their political representatives who would be interested in improving Quail habitat on their land, but it is open to the Public. For further information, contact Frank Harris at 205-991-8635 or Vernon Burns at 205-338-2755.

## 7th Annual AQH Field Trial

James and Jeanise Frost hosted the spring trial at Frost Farms. We are deeply in their debt for the effort that both James and Jenise and the entire Frost Family put forth to make this our most enjoyable trial ever. The setting was so good that it almost overshadowed the excellent dog work that could be observed in both fields from porches or from inside the cabin. We had a good crowd and had as many dogs as we could handle in one day.

The dogs were all signed up in advance and this made the whole thing go off much more smoothly than in previous years. We certainly are indebted to our judges David Thomas and Ken James who did a great job in judges all day long. Most people really liked the one hunter and one dog in the field. This concept mostly eliminates the luck of the draw.



Mike, Maggie & "Kate"

## And The Winners Were!

Open Gun Dog	Dog	Breed	Owner/Handler
1 <sup>st</sup>	Jake	Pointer	Jim Bradford
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tap	Pointer	H. Ridgeway /T. Smith
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Joe	Pointer	Aaron Parker
<b>Puppy</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Kate	Pointer	Maggie & Mike Barlow
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Little Lady	Pointer	Richard Anderson
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Prince	Pointer	Tommy Edmondon

# Presidents Corner

Just as I sat down to write this column for the third time, I received a phone call from a former quail hunter. This man was getting back in the game thanks to a quail hunting trip that his son-in-law had given to him as a present. He was looking for a pup and an older dog and hopefully I was able to point him in the right direction.

Even though he is 68 years old, diabetic and will do a lot of his hunting from a 4-wheeler, the man's enthusiasm was contagious. He reminded me of a teenager as he again looked forward to working with some bird dogs. I told him that most people were using released birds. He replied that he had killed plenty of wild birds in his day and didn't much care if he bagged any more. His enjoyment was going to come from working with his dogs.

I share his sentiments exactly. My Jake is 11 years old and his enthusiasm for released birds, preserve hunts, field trials and what ever has not dampened. Winning the A.Q.H. Spring Trial with Jake this year beats any other sports related achievement in my life. I knew that if I didn't miss a bird in the second run, we would probably win. Aaron Parker and Joe had posted a good score despite missing a bird. Tommy Smith with Harold Ridgeway's Tap then put up an even higher score. The pressure was on. I had cost Jake one championship earlier this year by missing two birds. Was I nervous! I almost made it worse by drinking a cup of coffee. Fortunately I didn't, things went well and Jake won his second trial this year out of three attempts. He seems to be getting better with age and I am trying to do the same. I hope the same thing could be said about all of us and our young pups.

# Have You Paid Your Dues?

Frank Harris said to put out a big reminder to send in your dues. It is basically our only source of revenue which we use to publish this newsletter. He said many faithful members and even some charter members have not sent dues in this year. If you are not sure if you have paid or not, fill out the application and send in \$10 for yourself or a friend.

## New Members

Richard Saloon

Kevin Trimm

James Collins

Dennis Anderson

Ben Slinguff

# Hoover High Demonstration

Recently, some of us had the pleasure of putting on a hunting dog demonstration for the Wildlife club at Hoover High School. Bob Carr, Alden Little, Jim Parsons, and myself brought our dogs and they put on a truly amazing show. Blind retrieves, a water retrieve of a live quail by Jims pointing lab, and Bobs dog had a point facing straight down on a 60 degree slope and Jake was perfect. I mean the dogs knew they were there to put on a show and they did. It is a shame we did not get it on film. If you would like to get some info on starting an outdoors club in your school, contact Tim Estes at 205-982-6706. I understand that there are very few of these clubs in the state, but the one at Hoover is really going great with about 150 members.



What is Frank Harris so happy about?

# Alliance Meeting

Mark Duda , CEO of Responsive Management, recently met with representatives of the groups that make up the Alabama Hunting and Fishing Alliance. If you think you know the answers to all problems with Outdoor Activities, you should have been at this meeting. Do we want more hunters or fewer, higher fees or lower, More or less access to open lands, cleaner waters or more boats. It was eye opening to see the way that different segment of hunters looked at the questions and the way the non hunting public looked at them.

Tim Gothard, Ala. Wildlife Federation, arranged for him to meet with us to point our Alliance Group in the right general direction to promote a positive agenda for general outdoor sporting activities in Alabama. By the way, this was my first trip to Lake Point State Park on Lake Eufala. To say the least, it is well worth visiting.

If you would like more information visit, [www.responsivemanagement.com](http://www.responsivemanagement.com).



# Web Site Activity To Be Promoted

Frankly our web site has not seen an abundance of hits since it has been established. Fortunately, we have very little tied up in establishing or hosting it. We have also not done a very good job with monthly updates between newsletters.

Starting in July we will have monthly updates and I will be writing a monthly series called "An Amateur's Guide to Bird Dogs". We will make every effort to have the site updated before the end of each month.



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