



NEWSLETTER

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

Historic Meeting

On January 6, 2002, representatives of the Ala. Quail Hunters Assoc., Quail Unlimited, and the Ala. Wildlife Federation met with key Alabama Senators and Representatives to discuss the development of legislation to support Bobwhite Quail in our state. The locale for the meeting was the Pa-Ko Plantation in Midway and the owner was an outstanding host. Mr. Paul provided a wonderful field experience that approached a "hands on" lesson in the economic potential, which "Gentleman Bob" means to our great state. Citing his business in particular, Mr. Paul shared with the attendees, the multiple layers of economic impact that his business provided the community. The employment of staff (both full and part-time), purchase of farm seed and supplies, equipment purchases and large scale maintenance, procurement of birds from local breeders, and a substantial cost in grocery and dry goods were but a few of the economic benefits which the community enjoyed as a result of the Pa-Ko operation. Another fact that constantly came up was the lost revenue opportunity Alabama landowner's experience. Landowners from certain other states enjoy legislative line-item budgetary consideration because lawmakers have realized the correlation between this wonderful bird and serious economic revenue.

This gathering was designed to enlighten engage the enthusiastic involvement of all the attendees. J Paul set the stage well and the speakers had a willing audience that wanted badly to see what was to come and how could they help. During the presentation each person in attendance could see that our law-making guest truly had the best interest of our group at heart. Each of the gentlemen realized the importance of the issue at hand and worked hard to provide us with needed guidance. This was especially true of Senator Lowell Barron. Senator Barron provided excellent leadership throughout our meeting and was instrumental in not only outlining the legislative process, but also in identifying the needs which must be addressed as the "Initiative" moves from the drawing board to an actual bill. Much hard work has occurred but each of us came to know that achievement is not realized in a sprint but rather in a marathon. This meeting may be considered as our critical first step in a most worthwhile journey to preserve the beloved Bobwhite Quail and its habitat.

Mike Barlow, V.P. — A.Q.H.

Spring Field Trial

Our 8th Annual Alabama Quail Hunters Field Trial is set for March 23. It will be at the same site we had it last year, Frost Farms. This is an absolutely perfect location for both spectators and participants. This will be a great place to bring friends and family to view great dogs competing.

In an effort to accommodate more dogs, we are going back to a format similar to Shoot to Retrieve with 2 dog braces and running on 2 fields at the same time. There will be 3 classes. Puppies are up to 12 months, Derby will be up to 24 months and over age 2 will be All Age (Gun dog). This Trial will be competitor friendly with the judges working with you and answering any questions about the simple rules. Rarely to almost never is a competitor or dog disqualified and most of the subjectivity has been removed from the scoring system.

To register in advance, call Jenise Frost at 665-7810. For more info, call Trial Chairman Mike Barlow at 879-2543 or you can attend our March 11 meeting.

Presidents Corner

Since my last column in October, the priority of small game habitat in Alabama has moved up rather dramatically. After reading Mike Barlow's report, you have got to be encouraged. A lot of people worked hard to put this meeting together. I want to thank Frank Harris and Mike for attending and doing a fine job of representing our group.

Shortly after that meeting, Senator Barron, on January 10, introduced a bill, which was co-sponsored by 14 fellow senators. This bill was subsequently amended with major changes to further improve wild quail habitat.

When it hopefully becomes law, it would establish the Alabama Quail Trail and Bobwhite Restoration Initiative (AQT-BRI) as a public non-profit corporation to study and implement plans to reverse declining Quail Habitat and promote and market hunting preserves with an emphasis on bringing needed recreational dollars to rural Alabama.

So as you can see, good things are happening. If you would like the details of the latest version of this bill (there have been 3 so far), come to our next meeting when we can bring you up to date.

Hoover High Demo

We will again be putting on a demonstration for the Hoover outdoors club. We had a lot of fun the last two years introducing the students to our sport and showing off our dogs. This year on Feb 20, at 1pm, we will be showing as many different pointing dog breeds as we can round up.

So far we have a liver pointer and a lemon pointer, a weimarimer and we can possibly use a setter, a Brittany, an Irish setter or something else that will point birds that you would like to show off. Check with Bob Carr at 424-1381 to see if we could use your dog.

This year, we are going to do what we should have done the last two years. We are going to get the whole thing on video. It seems that the dogs really appreciate the opportunity to perform in front of a crowd and do a really great job. The audio-visual club is going to do the job and we can show it off at future meetings.

New Treasurer

Bob Carr has agreed to relieve Frank Harris of his duties as treasurer. Frank has held this post for several years in addition to being a very active contact with the people in Montgomery. Frank will remain on the board and hopefully this will free up Frank to become even more active as things heat up in the Capitol. The up to date balance in the account is \$2,777.96, which does not include the cost of this Newsletter. We are very grateful for Bob taking on this job, as Frank had served longer than he ever intended.

New Members

The lifeblood of any service organization is new members. We welcome the following people and invite them to join us each month in an effort to restore native small game habitat.

Dr. Larry Britt

J. W. Black

Laylon D. Cox

C.P. Daniel's & Sons, Inc.

Ed Dickinson

Samuel E. Gray

Will Harvey

Bruce Thomas

Bruce B. Thompson

John A. Williams

Dues are due

Lets flood the new treasurer with prompt payment of our Dues.

The board voted to increase dues by a whopping 50% from \$10 to \$15 starting in 2002.

Any one joining or renewing now should send \$15 with the form on the back of the newsletter. We have had two stamp increases since we formed and printing and paper are a little higher. Also we are sending the letter to some members that occasionally forget to send their dues. We could cut them off but we always hope that some point in the future they will become productive members **also please include your E-mail address if you have one.** With the E-mail, we can send you a meeting reminder and important timely events before they have past. If you are receiving the newsletter and wish to be taken off the mailing list, call Jeanise Frost at 665-7810.

AQH Officers

Jim Bradford – President
Mike Barlow – Vice President
Jeanise Frost – Secretary
Bob Carr – Treasurer

Board Members

Frank Harris
N.H. Holt
Terry Burdette
Harold Ridgeway
James Frost

These people are giving their time and also doing an outstanding job. They receive no pay and are working to make our club a vehicle to bring about an improvement in Alabama's Quail Habitat.

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 March 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.

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT

www.newleafpub.com/alaquail

now containing monthly updates

Field Trials

If you are not participating or spectating at field trial, you are missing a real treat. They are a great place to bring friends and family to view great dogs competing. Most of the newer trials are competitor friendly with the judges working with you and explaining rules and working with you. Rarely to almost never is a competitor or dog disqualified. Most of the subjectivity has been removed from the scoring systems and you have several options as to which form best suits you and your pup or dogs. Whichever format you like, you will not win ever time no matter how good your dog is. Most likely, you will also have to compete several times before you place or win. But you will certainly like the competition. My dog Jake is pretty smart but he cannot tell whether he has won or lost.

FIELD TRIAL INFO

Alabama Quail Hunter's Spring Championship

Mike Barlow.....205-879-2543

March 23rd

To register call Jenise Frost205-665-7810

National Bird Dog Challenge

Frank Rodgers205-674-7244

March 9th

American Field Trial (Horseback)

John Ennis205-254-8040

N. S. T. R. A.

Sand Mountain

Hal Kirby256-228-6885

Danville

Junior Smith662-365-5398

Limestone

Ed Pearson256-974-1895

National Bird Hunters

Lamar-Marion Chapter

Harold Boyette.....205-486-6888



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Office Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____

New Member Renewal

2002 DUES – \$15.00

Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"

Call Jim Bradford, 991-8635 or for more information.



Alabama Quail Hunters

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