



# NEWSLETTER

May 2002 • Published Quarterly • Jim Bradford, Editor

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

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## A visit with Mr. Robert Wehle

By Mike Barlow

To get the most out of my hunting time I am doing things with more thought and planning than I have in the past. I want to be more active in the sport so that my children, as well as other children, will continue to have the same opportunities that I have enjoyed. This past weekend I joined Bob Carr and Harold Ridgeway for a trip to Midway, Alabama to visit Mr. Robert Wehle at the Elhew Kennels. I'm just like you, I look at the name Wehle and stand amazed at the impact one man can have had on the "dog world" as we know it. Anticipating this visit made the time drag by and was cause for countless "what if" questions as the meeting day approached. However, I can say without reservation that our morning with Mr. Wehle was worth the wait and made me proud to be counted among those individuals that that have trained and used his pointers. The lifelong pursuit of building one of the premier dog strains in birddog history has not impeded his ability to also excel as a wildlife sculptor, a writer, and a custodian of Mother Nature's bounty. Over the last thirty-one years Mr. Wehle has transformed 1500 acres of beautiful Alabama woodland into 1500 acres of showpiece quality land that is a haven for wildlife and a perfect place for his breeding and training facility.

Upon our arrival we were invited into his home where we settled in his den and almost immediately launched into "birddog talk". We had questions and Mr. Wehle freely gave us his thoughts. It was a wonderful opportunity for three regular guys to ask those questions that we'd always wondered about. It seemed that the time flew as we discussed everything from canine genetic theory to how the famous pointer Snakefoot is the only dog in the kennel that is allowed to bark and the other dogs don't challenge his privilege. After talking in the house for a considerable time, Mr. Wehle invited us to see his kennels. At the kennels I finally got to see the proud gentleman of the Elhew pointer world, Snakefoot. He is getting up in years but his strength and personality shine like a beacon as he holds audience, yet again, for "his" visiting fan club members. He surveyed us as if to acknowledge that, yes, he was a most noble canine but we could squeeze in a rub or two and he wouldn't tell. As we made our way around the kennel and the outbuildings I realized that our host was much more than I had first envisioned. True, he is a legendary birddog breeder, and he is an accomplished artist and writer, but he is first and foremost a teacher. His accomplishments, great though they may be, are all a form of sharing with others and teaching what he had picked up along life's journey. I found Mr. Wehle to be a keen observer of the world around him but it's what he does with these observations that make him special. He has the ability to point out what he notices and inspire others to open their eyes and study their own respective worlds.

I feel that Bob, Harold, and I were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit with Mr. Wehle. I could write page after page about this trip but this is a small newsletter and space is a consideration. However, Bob got our visit on video and we feel that you will enjoy hearing what Mr. Wehle had to say. We will have the tapes edited and ready for your viewing at a meeting in the near future. However, we will show some of Mr. Wehle's commercial quality tapes at our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. I am sure you will enjoy the "show".

# 8th Annual FIELD TRIAL

The Spring Field Trial keeps getting better and better. James and Jeanise Frost generously served as host for the second consecutive year. The weather was crisp and cool and allowed for some excellent Bird Dog competition. The trial was run fairly and in an expedient manor under Chairman Mike Barlow. The judges also did a great job of scoring and working with some of our first time participants. We also appreciate the Joy people for donating there finest for all placements.

Speaking of 1st timers, Andy Anderson won the puppy class with Jake and Frank Harris came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in Derby with Luke. So next year, all you never-Evers should jump in and get your feet wet. Put your ego aside and give your dog a chance. You could be pleasantly surprised. However, experience helps as Tommy Smith proved with a 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Gun dog.

## We congratulate the following winners!

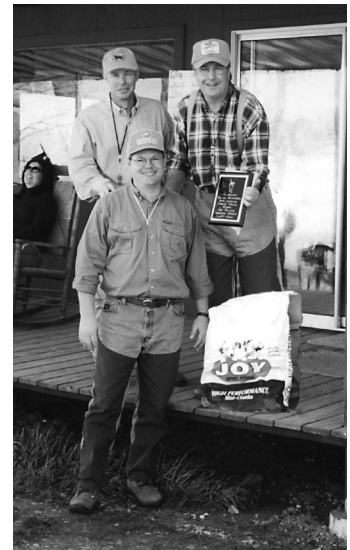
Puppy	Dog	Handler	Owner
1st.....	Jake .....	Andy Anderson	
2nd.....	Colt .....	Terry Cohran	
3rd .....	Pete .....	Jeb Shaner.....	Aaron Parker

### Derby

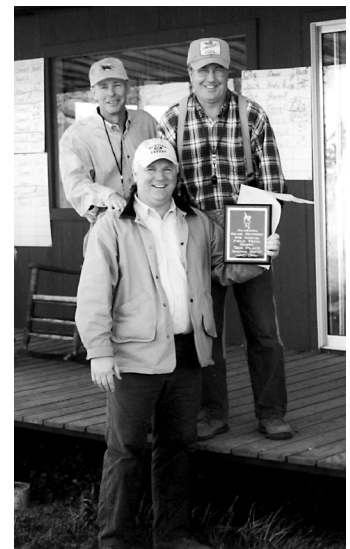
1st.....	Kate.....	Mike Barlow .....	Maggie Barlow
2nd.....	Little Lady .....	James Frost	
3rd .....	Luke.....	Frank Harris	

### Gun Dog

1st.....	Tap .....	Tommy Smith .....	Harold Ridgeway
2nd.....	Black Jack.....	James Frost	
3rd .....	Sport .....	Tommy Smith	



Jim Bradford, Mike Barlow  
Andy Anderson



Jim Bradford, Mike Barlow  
Frank Harris



Tommy Smith, Terry Cohran, Mike Barlow, Maggie Barlow  
Harold Ridgeway, Frank Harris, Aaron Parker, James Frost, Little James, Andy Anderson

## New Members

Rufus Adams  
Richard G. Anderson, Jr.  
Patrick S. Baldwin  
Richard C. Bishop  
J. W. Black  
Dr. L. A. Britt  
Laylon D. Cox  
"Dent", Charles Denton  
Ed Dickinson  
Samuel E. Gray  
William "Bill" Johnson  
J. Park Keith  
James T. Pepper  
Charles Skinner  
Bruce Thomas  
Bruce Thompson  
Thompston Plantation  
Chris Upton  
John A. Williams

# Treasurer's Desk

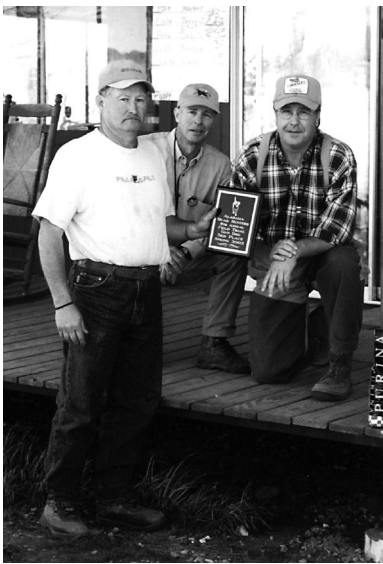
I have received 81 Annual Dues payments for 2002 from renewal members and new members. There are a total of 328 members on our membership roll. You do the math.

We want our membership to become more active in our club. We are trying to initiate and/or participate in some projects that will help improve the future of quail and Alabama quail hunting. Some of these projects are covered in other articles in this newsletter. Other projects and activities will be covered in future newsletters.

With your participation, including your paying your \$15.00 annual dues, attending our monthly meetings, attending our field trials and writing your senators and representatives concerning these projects, **you CAN** make a difference in the future of quail.

Please start by sending me your \$15.00 check with your correct address, phone numbers and **your E-mail address**. Your participation **IS** important to the future of quail and Alabama quail hunting.

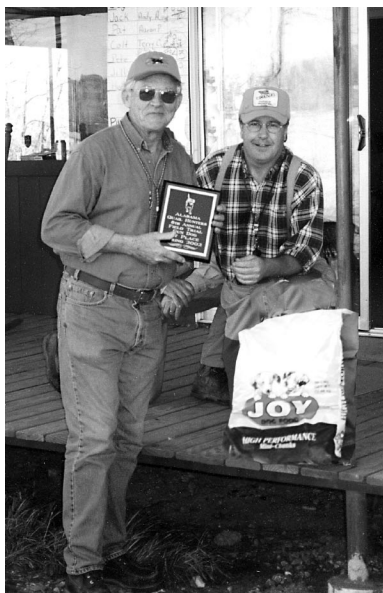
Thank you.  
Bob Carr



Tommy Smith, Jim & Mike

## Special Thanks

N. H. Holt spent a lot of time putting a wealth of info about ongoing habitat restoration in other states such as Virginia, Georgia, and Kansas. He also has articles on economic impact and the history of quail management. This note book will be at all future meetings so if you get tired of hearing about the other guys dogs, you can look through this book. Also if you have relative info for inclusion in the book, please bring it to a meeting.



Harold Ridgeway, Mike Barlow

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

The legislation that was introduced on behalf of quail and small game habitat did not make it this past session. No sense here in going into the reasons why it did not. The good news is that it **will pass** sooner or later. It is not going away. It is kind of sad that the people who have been running the show in Montgomery while quail habitats have declined, chose to stand in the way because the legislation did not give them virtual veto power over proposed changes. If Game and Fish cares to state their position, we will be happy to print it in our next newsletter.

On a positive note, Jeff Gardner, the ranger in charge of the Talladega National Forest, spoke recently to Q. U. He is an active quail hunter and has a brother, Dennis that has been a member of A.Q.H. for several years.

Jeff presented us with a real opportunity to help piggyback quail habitat improvement on top of the federal program to restore habitat for the Red Cockaded Woodpecker. The QU people were excited about this idea and so were the members of AQH when we discussed it at our meeting.

Speaking of our last meeting, I believe everybody got their moneys worth. We started with the video of our bird dog demo at Hoover High School and then we had a very worthwhile discussion about the possibilities of working with Jeff Gardner on the Talladega. It was a very upbeat meeting and goes to show that you don't always need a speaker to have a good meeting.

If the video that was taken at Mr. Wehles' Place is ready, we will show it. I am sure that you will not want to miss it. However, if it is not ready, we will have a good meeting anyhow and will show it at the June meeting.

# 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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