



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2004 • Published Quarterly • Jim Bradford, Editor

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

10th Annual Spring Field Trial

ALL AGE CLASS

FIRST
SECOND
THIRD

Terry Cohron's John
Tommy Smith's Sport
Andy Anderson's Jack

DERBY CLASS

Aaron Parker's Colby Joe
Aaron Parker's Brownie
Johnny Littleton's Butch

PUPPY CLASS

Aaron Parker's Ruby
Tommy Smith's Mike
Keith Mims' Champ

Saturday, March 6 turned out to be a great day for our Spring Field Trial at Richard Anderson's beautiful Covey Rise Plantation. Thanks to Bob McChesney and the University of Montevallo for lending us two tents and to Richard and Andy Anderson who put them up and took them down. Richard also arranged for us to borrow tables from his church. We had a record number of participants and many dog-loving spectators. The competition was keen. The dogs worked hard as did the hunters and judges. Our winners in the three classes are listed above:

Congratulations go to our winners and all who participated. A special thanks goes to Ken and Elaine Adkins who cooked us some delicious breakfasts and lunches in their motor home. We would have been "in the woods with no place to eat" had it not been for them.



DON'T FORGET TO VISIT

www.alabamaquailhunters.org • www.alabamaquailtrail.com

MAY MEETING NOTICE

Our meeting on May 11th will NOT be at Lloyds. We will meet on May 11th at 6:00PM at Southern Skeet and Trap in Irondale, AL just east of Birmingham. Directions are as follows: Take US 78 East through Irondale to John Rogers Drive, turn left and go 1.7 miles to the top of the hill, turn left at Southern skeet and Trap sign. The phone number is 956-6800.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks, and cookies may be purchased for dinner. Each person will be responsible for their shooting fees of \$16.00 for 4 rounds, 4 boxes of shells (#8 or #9 shot), safety glasses, guns choked to CYL, IC or Skeet and hearing protection. We hope National Champion Shooter, Gabby Hogland will join us to give some pointers. Call Terry Burdette at 205-822-7953 by 12:00 noon on Monday, May 10 to make your RESERVATIONS and ask any last minute questions.

New Members

We have several new members to welcome. They are:

Tim Hardin from Bremen

Lee Laechelt from Birmingham

Chandler McGee from Birmingham

Johnny Morris from Selma

Grant Nichols from Jasper

Robert Thomas from Trussville

Mark Weaver from Odenville

Chad Wilson from Tuscaloosa

David Witaker from Henagar

William Youngstrom from Wetumpka

Editor's Notes

Bill Allis and Travis Folk teamed up at our April meeting to bring us up to date on work that is being done down on the Connecuh Forest. They drove nearly 4 hrs to talk with us and it was a very productive meeting. Tim and Kim Price with Covey Rise were there and I am sure that sometime soon you will be hearing more about their activities.

It is kinda sad that it takes a retired snowbird like Allis to set the example of working on habitat improvement on land which he has absolutely no control. He does have some local help but one of his key helpers died recently. I can say that AQU did contribute in a small way by providing a seeder to help with the more than 100 food plots that they have worked up. Unfortunately deer share the same

plots and eat most of the legumes. But they have noted some progress and the three year total burning program is a big improvement over the no burn programs of the past.

Did you read the article on p. 5 of Covey Rise titled Introducing pen-raised quail into the wild population. That is the most exciting thing I have read in the last 10 years. I do not have room to explain it but the bottom line is that if you want a working quail population on your property and are willing to provide some decent habitat, you can have them. For further info contact Quail Restoration Technologies at 918-367-6000 or at www.quailrestoration.com.

JB

JUNE MEETING NOTICE

AQH is honored that nationally known Billy Morton has accepted our invitation to speak at our **June 8th** meeting at Lloyds Restaurant. Billy is a third generation dog trainer and has trained several national champions. His dog, Allure, won the three hour National Free for All Championship in 1979, 1980, 1981, and 1982. Billy has spent nearly 40 years training dogs at the Sedgefield Plantation located in Dallas and Wilcox Counties. We expect Billy to bring his sons, Billy Wayne and Charles, who are following their family vocation as dog trainers, and a video of some well-known football coaches hunting quail. Don't miss it.

Treasurer's Desk

Thank you to all who have paid your 2004 dues and for your positive comments concerning Jim Parsons' idea for the mailing label. For those who have not noticed it, look at your mailing label. You will see some numbers following your last name. These numbers represent the month and year through which you have paid your dues, according to my records. "12-04" means that you have paid your dues through December 2004. "12-03" means that you paid 2003 dues but you still owe your \$15.00 for your 2004 dues. If I have made an error with your account, let me apologize in advance. Please Email me at coalcarr@bellsouth.net or call me at (205) 424-1381. If not, please send me your check made out to AL Quail Hunters, 1901 Morgan Road SE, Bessemer, AL 35022. Your \$15.00 dues for 2004 are income tax deductible.

Thank you, Bob Carr, AQH Treasurer

President's Corner

Hey Folks:

During the first week of March, you pre-registered over 40 dogs for our Spring Field Trial planned for Richard Anderson's Covey Rise Plantation, near Briarfield. My anxiety grew daily with the weather forecast for Friday and Saturday. The storm came in as predicted on Friday night and delivered ample rainfall. Saturday morning arrived with cloudy skies and a misty rain as I drove southward down I-65. As I entered the Anderson property the rain had disappeared from the sky. It had left its marks on the soil. We began the field trial about 8AM and the weather improved with each hour. The morning weather was cool, breezy, by mid day sunshine was present and temperatures were rising. Overall the weather was good for the spring trial.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the event. Terry Cohron was the overall winner. A complete write-up about the winners is another article within this newsletter. A double "thank you" goes to the judges. If one of you has an idea on how to line up the judges in the future please share it with us. Our trial would not have been possible without Richard Anderson, making his property available to us. Thanks

to Covey Rise for making a contribution towards the awards. Thanks to Elaine and Ken Adkins for the delicious, hot breakfast and lunch meals they prepared for us. We missed you Jim Bradford, Jack and Maggie Barlow.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with a quail biologist about quail needs. He said he had observed land managers recommending heavy planting of Autumn Olive. He suggested a few, scattered plants here and there, but was opposed to planting 200 to 300 plants in a block. Well, this wasn't intended to be an article on quail management, but if you have some ideas you wish to share, please do.

Your board has pledged \$400 from the 2003 Fall Auction towards Quail Research. It will be directed through the Alabama Quail Trail. Right now is a good time for quail habitat improvement. Habitat is the key to raising wild quail.

Looking at the big picture the Northern Bobwhite Quail Initiative (NBQI) is shaping up in all southeastern States, except Alabama. The single purpose of the initiative is quail restoration. The first step here as well as the participating states is to establish a quail council. Its purpose is to coordinate the efforts of various government and private agencies.

Georgia's newsletter states that they have impacted 21,000 acres with habitat improvements. Breck Carmichael, NBQI's wildlife biologist for the southeast is headquartered in South Carolina. Please inquire into and talk up the initiative.

Thanks to Bill Allis, who spoke to AQH for our April meeting. Bill spends about $\frac{1}{2}$ the year in Alabama and $\frac{1}{2}$ the year in New York. He does a lot of work for habitat in the Conecuh National Forest, (CNF) near Andalusia. Bill brought Travis H. Folk along with him. Travis is a student at Auburn University, he is currently doing research on bob white quail in the CNF. His project centers on population dynamics and the impact fire has on quail, specifically the season within which the fire occurs. Bill and Travis were well received and the questions from the club were intense.

The Alabama Forest Owners Association hosted a forestry and quail management tour on the 23rd and 24th day of April in Monroe County, AL. A thank you goes to Lee Laechelt for his interest in quail management.

Frank Harris
President

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Name _____

Address _____

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

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New Member Renewal

2004 DUES – \$15.00

Check Payable to “Alabama Quail Hunters”

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



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