



NEWSLETTER

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

FEBRUARY 2005 • Published Quarterly • Jim Bradford, Editor

11th Annual Spring Field Trial *May 12th at Frost Farms*

This is an spectacular venue to watch outstanding dogs compete for the state championship. These are walking dog trials and both fields can be viewed by all spectators even if the weather does not cooperate. A delicious breakfast and hamburger lunch will be catered on site by Ken & Elaine Adkins who did an outstanding job two years ago.

New this year will be a designated Senior Dog division that will run with in the Gun dog division. Basically a dog that is 8 or older can run in Gun dog or Senior or both. To participate in both divisions, he would pay a double fee. We will endeavor to pair Senior dogs in the same brace. A dog that is entered in both divisions would be matched with another Gun dog.

As near as I can tell, this is a first in trialing. Why leave these old dogs in the pen when they still live to hunt? I realize that my Jake, age 14 and a past AQH champion, will be spotting some pups a few years but that's okay with him cause he still thinks he is a young pup.

Terry Burdette is trial chairman and we are trying to have all dogs entered by Wednesday, March 9th. You can call Terry at 822-7953 or Bob Carr at 424-1381 or Frank Harris at 326-5598.

Whether you enter a pup, derby, gun dog, or senior or come as a spectator, this event with the camaraderie of fellow hunters, has the potential to be the high point of your hunting season. See you there. — JB

Directions to Frost Farm

Take I-65 south from Birmingham. Take the Shelby County Airport Exit.

Turn **Left** onto Co. Hwy 12 and go to the dead end.

Turn **Right** onto Co. Hwy 22 for 100 feet.

Turn **Left** onto Co. Hwy 12 again and go to another dead end.

Turn **Left** onto Co. Hwy 16 and go over the hill.

Turn **Right** onto Co. Hwy 23 and go to the first paved road on the right.

Turn **Right** onto Co. Road 222 and go to the second house on the left.

Next Generation

Last evening, I attended the monthly AQH meeting and enjoyed our speaker, Ms. Michelle Isenberg. She commented that she was sure the points of her talk were common knowledge to us but she was passionate about quail hunting and she felt compelled to address certain critical points whenever she had the opportunity, even if she might appear to be "preaching to the choir." I, for one, was very grateful she thought that way because at my age, I need to be reminded more and more about EVERYTHING, lest I forget and miss some good stuff. At any rate, the message Ms. Isenberg so skillfully delivered made the strong impact I am sure she desired.

Later, I thought about Cecil Cole who is also passionate and equally articulate

in his message delivery. He owns Rock Acre Kennel in Brownwood, Texas and is one of the most successful field trialers of all time. He accomplishes this by awakening in the morning with a passion and a work ethic for training champion bird dogs. Mr. Cole has another ability that is sought by many but attained by very few. When he speaks, other folks listen. They listen in the hope that some of his knowledge and expertise that he dispenses with such ease and grace will rub off and allow them a degree of competence in training their own dog. Whether it is breeding, feeding or field trialing, Mr. Cole has done it, seen it done, or will soon do it to make his dogs the strongest competitors possible.

Cecil Cole readily shares his secrets for success with others. You'd think he would hold his secrets close and never reveal anything, but that just isn't the way Mr. Cole works. I have witnessed this willingness to share time, interest, skill and bird dog passion among a few other great field trialers. Ferrel Miller and Bob Wehle come to mind as people like Cecil Cole who shared freely. They spoke as if you and your dog were just as worthy as any of the great dogs they so proudly trained and trialed.

When Harold Ridgeway brought Richard Anderson and me to Brownwood for our visit, Cecil Cole's grandson, Brody, was working with Mr. Cole.

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Next Generation

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It was plain to see that this young fellow had the same love for the dogs and the same eagerness to work with them as his grandfather. Although most of the visiting group had thirty years on this young guy, you knew that it was just a matter of time before we began to hear of him and his success as a field trialer. You could tell that all the training taking place at Rock Acre Kennel wasn't being confined to the bird dogs! This puts Cecil Cole on a high pedestal in my book! I suspect Brody will be teaching his granddad a thing or two before long.

All of this leads me around to Ms. Michelle Isenberg's comment about "preaching to the choir". It is absolutely true that some crowds are easier

to address than others but all of us know that sometimes no matter how hard the preacher sings out, the choir is just off key. In the case of our last AQH meeting, and our visit to Rock Acre Kennels, the choir could carry the tune and everyone really, really enjoyed the harmony. I extend many thanks to Ms. Michelle Isenberg and to Mr. Cecil Cole for their continuing role in educating our children as well as us older folk in the "choir". Long ago, their mother or their grandmother must have told them to, "Always share your toys with your friends." and, thank goodness, they listened!

Mike Barlow



UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 8th, Wildlife Biologist Steven Mitchell • May 10th at Southern Skeet & Trap

EDITOR'S NOTES

Trial Memories

On my wall is Jake's plaque from our 1st trial in 1995. It is for 3rd place in the Gun Dog division. I don't remember much about the trial except that we could possibly have won it if I had done a better job on my end.

I don't remember the details of most of the trials but I remember the first event at Frost Farms when we took First Place. Jake was on fire and my shooting was unusually accurate. I remember having a narrow lead and knew when Jake pointed the last bird that we would win if I could make the shot. Absolutely the most pressure to which I have ever been subjected.

I also have memories of other participants. There was the year when Kate was performing brilliantly, but Terry Ballew arrived late, borrowed a gun and Kate paid the price. Then there was Bob Carr's Sioux. As a pup, she won almost every thing. Aaron Parker competing while barely able to walk. Harold Ridgeway had to have others run his dogs because he could not go because of smoking related illness. Now he can keep up with anybody. One year Tommy Edmondson could barely walk until he started the brace. I thought we were going to have to warn him for running. There was the year at Parkers place when I had to leave to go to a funeral and Jeanice Frost saved the day. So many memories and too little space.

Of course there were controversies and misunderstandings but mostly good sportsmanship and great memories. – JB

HEY FOLKS

At our January meeting, several new landowners visited us who were interested in restoring bobwhite quail on their property. I have given considerable thought to their question, "What can be done to restore bobwhite quail?" My initial response was to share with you my take on quail management.

The Quail 4 Conference, held in Tallahassee, AL was where that I gained the knowledge or belief that wild quail can flourish if their "suitable habitat" is available. The plants that quail like in their suitable habitat are called **early succession plant species** that are those plants that emerge after disking, control burning, or soil disturbance of some type. I feel suitable habitat is the first step to restoring bobwhite quail.

A Small Game Wildlife Biologist may provide assistance by inspecting your property. They may consult with you, write a habitat restoration plan and a quail management plan for your property. Then, they may even assist you in implementing these plans.

Research is currently being conducted by an independent group of landowners known as Tall Timbers, by Auburn University and by Mississippi State University. Herbert Stoddard was conducting quail research in the 1920's on this land that later

became the home for Tall Timbers Research Station, that is currently managed by Bill Palmer.

Publications provide valuable data on quail habitat including a book titled The Ecology of Bobwhite Quail by Herbert Stoddard, a pioneer in quail research. This and other books by Stoddard may be ordered through Books-A-Million or they may be in stock in the Rare and Used Books Section. Dr. H. Lee Stribling publishes a newsletter titled **Albany (Ga.) Area Quail Management Project**. This publication keeps you on the edge of wild quail research in the southeast. Dr. Wes Burger, with Mississippi State University has been instrumental in making recommendations for quail habitat for the field trial grounds at Grand Junction, Tennessee where quail populations exceed one bird per acre. He has produced a video interviewing Mississippi farmers who have adjusted their farming practices to enhance quail habitat and management. Ben Black calls it, "the best on quail management".

Some good articles are found in **Wildlife Trends, Quail Call Newsletter, Quail Unlimited Magazine and Alabama Wildlife Federation Magazine**. **Covey Rise** has articles on quail habitat as well as quail hunting and bird dog training.

Organizations you might consider are the Alabama Wildlife Federation, with a scope that is broader than quail. Quail Unlimited is a national

organization and has recently implemented a quail restoration project in the Shoal Creek District of the Talladega National Forest. Our Alabama Quail Hunters has a non-profit charter and local flavor. The opportunities to restore quail in Alabama are greater now than at any other time I have seen in the last 10 years. **Below is contact information for some biologists and some publications.** Let me know how your project proceeds.

Frank

Wildlife Trends, P.O. Box 3504, Auburn, AL 36831-3504;

Ted Devos, Devos – Bach Forestry Wildlife Services, 217 S. Court, Montgomery, AL 36104, Phone 334-850-4955;

Covey Rise, P.O. Box 545, Alexander City, AL 35011, Phone 256-409-1865

Stan Stewart, Wildlife Biologist, Dept. of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, 64 North Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130, Phone 334-242-3469;

Claude Jenkins, Wildlife Biologist, AL Wildlife Federation, 3050 Lanark Road, Montgomery, AL 36054, Phone 334-285-4550

Quail Unlimited, Philip Wiedmeyer, Phone 205-335-8549

Quail Call Newsletter, Tall Timbers Research Station, Phone 1-800-893-4153, www.talltimbers.org

Dr. H. Lee Stribling, Wildlife Specialist, AL Coop. Extension System, Auburn, AL 36830, Phone 334-844-9247

Dr. Wes Burger, Wildlife Biologist, Mississippi State U., Starkville, MS.

Male Pointer at Stud

Contact Robert Thomas at rthomas303@charter.net or phone 205-661-6052, cell 205-601-2863.

Sire: Ch Rail's Powerstroke

Dam: Dance Partner

Treasurer's Desk

Now that we are in 2005, your annual dues are due. As of this writing, 41 members have paid their 2005 dues. Thanks to each of you. Look at your mailing label. If "12-05" does not follow your name, please send me your check made out to AL Quail Hunters, 1901 Morgan Road SE, Bessemer, AL 35022. Your annual \$15.00 dues are income tax deductible. Email me any questions to coalcarr@bellsouth.net or call me at (205) 424-1381.

Thank you,
Bob Carr, AQH Treasurer

AQH Patches

iron on or sew onto your hunting shirt and vest. \$15.00 each or buy 4 and the 5th one is free.

Contact Bob Carr at coalcarr@bellsouth.net or call him at 205-424-1381.



New Member

Ron Ramsbacher from Homewood

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

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

Email Address _____

New Member Renewal

2005 DUES – \$15.00

Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"

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



Alabama Quail Hunters

1901 Morgan Road S.E. • Bessemer, Alabama 35022



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