



NEWSLETTER

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

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Ted Devoss at June Meeting

Once again, Ted Devoss will be speaking to our club. Ted's enthusiasm is always a welcome shot in the arm to a group that has been battling pessimism for the last several decades. If you are new to the state or our group, Ted is a wildlife biologist who specializes in quail habitat.

I am sure that he will bring us up to date on the Grey Rocks proj-

ect which I believe is the largest intensive restoration of quail habitat ever in Alabama. Speaking of Grey Rocks, they hosted a field day on May 20.

When Ted speaks to our club, it is always one of our best meetings of the year. Members will drive from all over Central Alabama to hear Ted speak about what they can do to improve their local

quail habitat.

So mark June 13 on your calendar. We will meet at Lloyds Restaurant. We will be eating and talking between 6 and 7 and Ted will talk and answer all our questions after that. If you know someone that is considering habitat restoration, bring them. I will promise you that Ted will inspire them.

Lions Make Donation to A.Q.H.

The Cahaba Valley Lions recently made a welcome donation of \$250 dollars to the Alabama Quail Hunters. I am very confident that our unpaid officers and board members will put this money to good use.

Even though AQH has been a 501(C-3) non-profit organization for many years, we have never been a fund raising organization. Instead, we have worked through our meetings and our newsletter to promote the many aspects of quail hunting.

What would we do if some of our members were to donate large sums of money to the club. Could we do internships for wildlife biologist at Auburn or match Federal and State funds for habitat improvement? Recently, a lot

of federal money was sent back to Washington because land owners did not apply. What if we had someone overseeing and promoting the program and had possibly offered signing bonuses through our own habitat improvement plan?

I don't know of any other non profit organization that has a lower overhead. Our only expenses are the newsletter and the web site and they are handled by the \$15 dues which are the lowest dues of any organization I know of except ALFOA (\$10).

At 60 years old and in great health, I plan on outliving most of our members. But if the plan does not work out or even if it does, I will leave the club and

future members something to remember me by. Some of our members that could do far more than me might want to consider doing something along these lines.

We all know the old saying. You can't take it with you. Well one man was determined to try. On his death bed he instructed his wife to convert every thing to gold and put it in the attic and he would try to grab it on his way up.

When she got back from the funeral, she and her best friend went up to check the attic. The gold was still there. The friend suggested perhaps she should have put the gold in the basement. JB

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT

www.alabamaquailhunters.org • www.alabamaquailtrail.com

Treasurer's Desk

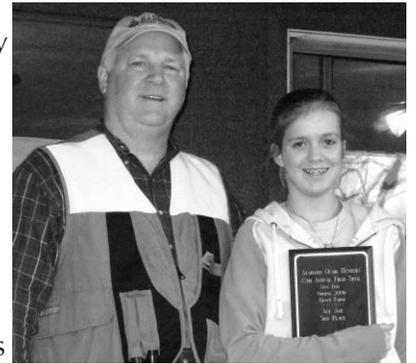
Thanks to the 84 members who have paid your 2006 dues. Check your mailing label and if "12-06" does not follow your name, you are one of 80+ members who has NOT paid your 2006 dues. Please send me your check made out to AL Quail Hunters, 1901 Morgan Road SE, Bessemer, AL 35022. Your annual \$15.00 dues are income tax deductible. If I have made an error, or if you have decided you no longer want to be a member, email me at [HYPERLINK "mailto:coalcarr@bellsouth.net"](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:coalcarr@bellsouth.net) coalcarr@bellsouth.net or call me during office hours at (205) 424-1381.

Thank you,
Bob Carr, AQH Treasurer

2006 Fall Field Trial

March 4th was a beautiful spring Saturday, cool with a nice breeze blowing across the fields of the Frost's Farm Licensed Hunting Preserve. It was a perfect day for our 12th Annual AQH Spring Field Trial, but something was not right. James Frost's Grandmother and E. G. Frost's Mother, Elizabeth Frost had been very sick for a long time. Ms. Nannie lived next door to the Frost's hunting lodge. She loved quail hunting, bird dogs and talking to the members of AL Quail Hunters. Prior to her severe illness, Ms. Nannie never failed to visit the hunting lodge during our field trials to share a story or two about E. G. or James and to watch the bird dogs work. When I arrived early Saturday morning, I asked James how Ms. Nannie was. He told me that she had quietly passed away during the night. I told him that we would move the trial but he said that he and E. G. had decided that Ms. Nannie would have insisted that AQH should have their trial in her back yard as planned. In her memory, AQH made a small donation to her church.

There were a total of 47 dogs entered into the four classes. We had a fun day of friendly competition. We had plenty of spectators to critique the hunters' shooting skills, or lack there of. The food was good and hot thanks to Terry Burdette, Ben Black, Harry Puryear and Ken Johnson. Mike Barlow's German Shorthair puppy and Johnny Walker's English Setter puppies were big hits with everyone. At the end of the day, when the scores were totaled by Scott Gilpin, we congratulated the winning dogs and their handlers who were as follows:



Senior Dogs (8+ years)

- 1 Rocky owned by Bob Hensley
2. Sue owned by Paul English
- 3 Sport owned by Tommy Smith

Gun Dogs or All Age (2+ years)

1. Sadie owned by Kenny Armstrong
- 2 Tie Rocky owned by Bob Hensley
2. Tie Kate owned by Maggie Barlow poorly handled by Mike Barlow

Derby Dogs (12 to 24 months)

1. Sadie owned by Kenny Armstrong
2. Dee owned by Tommy Smith
3. Jim owned by Aaron Parker

Puppy Class (up to 12 months)

1. Joy owned by Tommy Smith
2. Sugar owned by Jeremy Davis
3. Kate owned by James Frost



HEY FOLKS

In reflecting over the 2005 / 2006 quail hunting season, it was a good year for me. I had the opportunity to hunt in Texas and Georgia as well as some familiar places in Alabama. Perhaps the most important thing was being able to enjoy the hunt with friends and family. I am beginning to anticipate next year's hunting season.

We have been meeting together at Lloyd's for several years. We are all getting comfortable with each other and all enjoy a bit of ribbing and joking with each other. Please be sure that our comments and jokes are not interfering with our speakers. Not many of them are professional speakers so it important that we always give them our undivided attention. The

founders of AL Quail Hunters established a high standard for us as gentlemen quail hunters that we should maintain.

The 2005 / 2006 quail season was the first for our AQH Licensed Hunting Preserve. Because the lease was signed so late in 2005, we were unable to expend any effort improving the habitat. We have discovered a community of friendly people and have made some new acquaintances that I hope will grow into friendships. For years, this community has used the Drummond Company land we leased as their own public hunting and recreational land. We are working through some of the problems this has created. We have also begun some quail

habitat work and more is planned. I have made an arrangement with a local farmer, Larry, to do some tractor work. Five areas have been selected for planting this first year. Each area will have a perimeter lane cut around it to identify it and to access it. I will be calling the lease members to show each of you what is being done, to get your ideas and help.

I am excited about the increasing number of people, companies and other organizations interested in restoring the Bobwhite Quail and their habitat. The challenge is a great one. I am proud that AQH is apart of this growing effort. Thank you for being a member of AQH.

President, Frank Harris

Editors Notes..

Can Old Hunter Learn New Tricks?

We all know it is very difficult to teach old dogs new tricks, but what about hunters? I learned about bird dogs from my Dad and Uncle Bill while growing up on a peanut farm in Central Florida.

On most days, I took my dog for walks in the fields for exercise. I did not own a training collar and in fact, had never seen one. I did not use a whistle but would use the horn if I was hunting out of the Bronco. The dogs just seemed to train themselves on the many wild birds.

Most of you have heard about Jake. He was raised in the city and trained on released birds. Like most dogs, he had some faults. His owner and handler had even more faults. Jake is not around any more but is it possible for his owner to learn some new tricks at an advanced age.

For the last several weeks, I have been working with Aaron Parker hoping some of his methods could help me with my next pup. Aaron has been helping a newcomer to our sport, Rodney Jessen, train a couple of young Brittannies. Under Mr. Parkers' simple but effective training methods, Rodney and the young dogs are making excellent progress. More importantly, they are enjoying every minute of it.

What about the old (does 60 qualify) hunter? Is he learning anything and if so will he be willing and able to apply it?

Over the last decade, professionals like Parker and Tommy Smith and certain amateurs like Bob Carr and Kenny Armstrong have consistently finished in front of me, despite my having the better dog (at least in Jake's opinion).

Some of the excuses that I used were they had more entries, trained only for the trials, local knowledge, they spent more hours preparing, were using dogs bred for the small fields. The list goes on and on.

The one thing I didn't do was blame the dog since I usually

made more mistakes than he made. I have never been one to get rid of my dog for one that will perform better.

We certainly felt we were capable of winning any trial we ever entered. This led to very few triumphs and a lot of disappointments.

So, what to do with the next pup? I could go out and try to buy a champion and in the process, throw a lot of money away and miss the fun of working with the young dog.

Or I could do what I am doing now which is working with a professional and hopefully improving my training and handling abilities.

Like most of our members, I have seen many training tapes and read the books by the Pros' and even gone to the Delmar Smith Seminar. But in my case, it was all like water off a ducks back.

I believe that the time I am spending in the field helping Mr. Parker train the Brittannies and some of his young dogs is going to come in handy when my next pup arrives. JB

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

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

Cell Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____

New Member Renewal

2006 DUES – \$15.00

Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"

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



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