



NEWSLETTER

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

OCTOBER 2006 • Published Quarterly • Jim Bradford, Editor

Fall Field Trial, 2006

Saturday, October 28, 2006 is the date. 8:00 am is the start time. The place is J & R Preserve owned by Johnny Littleton who will host the field trial. Directions are:

Travel south from Birmingham on I 65, exit at #205 (Durbin Farms Exit) and at the top of the ramp turn left and travel back over the interstate on AL HWY 22 or US HWY 31 and go 2.7 miles.

Then turn left onto Chilton Co. HWY

24, and go 0.9 miles. You will pass Chestnut Creek Church and graveyard on your left.

Turn right through the gate into the J and R Preserve.

Please, pre-register your dogs by calling Frank Harris at 205-595-0203 or Bob Carr at 205-424-1381 by Thursday at 6:00 P.M. The entry fees will remain the same as last year, Puppy-\$35, Derby-\$40, Gun Dog-\$45 and Senior Dogs-\$45. Call with the

name of your dog(s) and the class for each to be entered. Puppy age is 1-12 months, Derby age is 12 - 24 months, Gun Dog is any age and Senior age 8 years and older. The rules remain the same and are on our web site: www.alabamaquailhunters.org

Bring your wife and children, lawn chairs for a fun day of bird dog action, a few good jokes and many wild tales of hunting adventures from days gone by.

Alabama Quail Hunters at Outdoor Alabama

Your AQH made a good showing for the general public at Oak Mountain on September 30th. In spite of Frank Harris getting his pick-up truck's tag bent by a rear-ending driver, he got the tent there in time to put it up before the crowd arrived. Jim Bradford brought some live quail from Aaron Parker in a small cage for the public to see. The little children were thrilled with these quail. They also loved the bird dog puppies as seen in the picture. It was estimated that 1,000 people came by our display and learned about AQH, bird dogs, quail hunting and the hopeful future of the Bob White Quail.



Cullman Leased Hunting Preserve

In October 2005, Alabama Quail Hunters leased 365 acres from Drummond Company in Cullman County. This area was reclaimed surface mine spoil. A well-established stand of fescue grass blanketed the entire property. The AQH Board of Directors established a separate group of members to join together and fund through payment of dues the establishment of new quail habitat. They also authorized this property to be a Licensed Hunting Preserve allowing its members to use the property extra time over the normal quail hunting season.

During this year, a program of fescue eradication was begun. Because it was so very thick, mowing the fescue was the first step. Once the new fescue began to sprout new, tender blades, chemicals were sprayed on them to kill the roots. Then, the ground could

be plowed and prepared for planting. Soil samples were taken to determine the lime and fertilizer requirements.

A tight budget required that we could only kill about nine acres of fescue. We decided to kill it in one acre strips spread over the property. Areas were selected based on adjacent cover, access and topography. Not all the plots were done at the same time. This would allow us to make "mid-stream" adjustments as necessary without spending the entire budget. Five plots were mowed and sprayed prior to the dry spell in June and July. After the first rain in six weeks on the property, we plowed the plots. We selected a seed blend of legume producing plants, which should reseed themselves with minimum future work. Our seed blend included partridge peas, beggar weed, Kobe Lespedeza, bundle

flower, sunflower and sorghum. Fertilizer and seeds were scattered at the same time and disked under lightly. Our seed lay dormant waiting for the next rain that finally came in about three weeks. Then, it rained about every week and we planted the other four plots.

Our seeds grew fairly well. We needed more fertilizer and some lime to obtain denser foliage. We found that the deer love sunflowers, so we will not include them in our seed blend next spring. Budget constraints would not allow necessary road repair to be done so your Board of Directors have approved an increase in the 2007 dues to \$300.00. We hope this will allow us to fix the road, maintain the plots established in 2006 as well as developing new plots across the property in 2007.

Overdue Thank You

I have been most fortunate to meet some truly great folks in the quail hunting fraternity since becoming involved with Alabama Quail Hunters, Inc. The members are from varied backgrounds but all have one thing in common: they love and respect the noble Bobwhite Quail and the sport of hunting them.

Over the years, I have written several articles on individuals who have contributed to the restoration of quail populations. Once again, it is "light shining time" for Kim and Tim Price. These two brothers founded COVEY RISE, the premier quail hunting publication, in July 2003. We are long overdue to acknowledge the splash they are making among the quail hunting community.

If you've been to any quail function, benefit or gathering, you know about COVEY RISE. This monthly publication is informative, educational and entertaining. Soon after its delivery to the subscribing quail hunter's mailbox, it is read from cover-to-cover. One of the contributing factors to the success of COVEY RISE is that Kim and Tim are seasoned quail hunters. Additionally, their contributing authors are biologists, veterinarians, landowners and others with a genuine love and knowledge of quail, bird dogs and quail habitat. While you know that COVEY RISE is written in Alexander City, due to the quality of this publication, its circulation is being demanded across the United States (and other countries, when you count Texas!!!!!!) This is such a source of pride for us, the members of AL Quail Hunters.

Kim and Tim Price are also very generous with their support of all activities that educate the public concerning quail and quail habitat. Articles concerning these events have been seen repeatedly in COVEY RISE. Additionally, they continually support conferences and seminars to educate farmers, students, teachers, landowners, quail clubs, and others. They support Quail Forever, Quail Unlimited, field trials and Alabama Quail Hunters. Whatever form their support for quail may take, you can count on it coming from the heart of these two fine gentlemen.

I would have loved to be the famous Alabama Quail Hunter reporter that found Kim and Tim Price and got the big scoop on them. I am afraid word has already leaked out. Some folks went out and elected Kim to be Chairman of the Alabama Quail Council and member of the Southeast Quail Study Group. Kim has also been elected to the Board of Directors of Quail Forever. Yeah, the word is getting around. Quail folks know a good man when they see him.

I could go on and on about these two good gentlemen but I want to close with a simple, heart felt sentence. From all the members of Alabama Quail Hunters, we say thank you, Kim and Tim Price, for all you do for our beloved sport, for Bob White Quail and their future.

Mike Barlow

HEY FOLKS

I was fortunate to attend the meeting of the Southeast Quail Study Group in Auburn this summer. First, I will have to say that Kim Price with Covey Rise did an excellent job organizing the event. Without a doubt, he left a very positive imagine on all in attendance of Alabama's Southern Hospitality. The Southeast Quail Study Group was organized years ago. I have attended their meetings in Mississippi, Florida and Georgia prior to this one. Its members include natural resources personnel from many states, small game biologists, students involved in wildlife research, wildlife professors, members of Quail Unlimited, chemical and equipment sales people and folks like me, all interested in quail and quail hunting. The members are from every southeastern state as well as states like Missouri, North Carolina and Maryland.

The SQSG topics discussed ranged from the CP 33 Program's dismal beginning, to ethanol production to the 2007 farm bill. All topics were centered on what impact each subject would have on the Bob White Quail. Some attendees stated that their states research indicated that the declining quail population numbers are beginning to slow in their decline.

The cornerstone of the meeting were the tours of the Sehoj Plantation owned by Cam Lanier & of the Creek Stand Plantation owned by the Bickerstaff Family. There are about five thousand acres located in the center of Sehoj Plantation that may host the best quail population in Alabama. Their records indicate 25 covey finds per day while hunting on horseback. Those are numbers that exceed the records for the 1920's and 1930's on this plantation. Their formula for this success is controlled burns covering about 50% of the property annually,

ragweed, partridge peas, hard work and a commitment to quail. When discussing Alabama quail hunting, it is rare to hear someone say, "25 Coveys! Now, that is unreal!" Sehoj demonstrates the upside potential of quail populations in Alabama.

During my tour of the Sehoj Plantation and, reflecting back on an earlier tour of the Nilo Plantation in South Georgia, neither plantation located near a large, flowing stream. These plantations are the "cream of the crop" for wild bird hunting in their states. Perhaps the absence of a large stream is a built-in control of predators. It may be the subject for additional research.

The evening meal was served on the bank of a 400-acre private lake on the Sehoj Plantation. The meal included Bar-B-Q, fried catfish and much more. It was enjoyable as well as an informative day learning more about the Bob White Quail.

President, Frank Harris

A Special Pup

Mr. Parker had promised me a pup when I was ready. I sat out last season after Jake died, but I wanted a new pup to work and grow old with. When he told me about this litter he was about to whelp out of out standing breeding, I began to get excited. The litter arrived, all two of them and one of them died within a week.

When I first saw J.J., it was love at first sight. He appeared to be totally fearless, though I found out soon enough that he could be spooked. His first introduction to quail came when he winded 3 in a cage and stalked right up to them. They fluttered and rattled the cage when his nose was about 6 inches from the cage. Startled, he jumped back and looked at them. Then he took off and started chasing butterflies. In about 5 or 10 minutes, he came back and joined Rodney's 2 brittneys as they attempted to get to the birds.

Before the morning was over, he had climbed up on the 4-wheeler and was standing on top of a box of quail. Since then, he has made a fair amount of progress despite only about 4 sessions in the field. We might shoot a bird over him this week end in an effort to get him ready for the puppy division of the fall trial. He will be 17 weeks old at the time of the trial and he certainly will not be a favorite, but he just might have the most fun. He loves it and his enthusiasm is contagious.

Johnny Littletons' J& R Preserve is on beautiful rolling acreage and is worthy of a visit just to see it. We should be able to set a course that will give maximum viewing opportunities for spectators and participants. J.J. and I will see you there. JB

Welcome To Our Newest Members

Jason Cole
from Clanton

Mike Hopson
from Trussville

Mike Jenkins
from Montgomery

Rodney Jessen
from Pinson

Jeff Rickard
from Vestavia

Brendon West
from Birmingham

Treasurer's Desk

Please note that I have a new email address. Check your mailing label and if "12-06" does not follow your name, you are one of 60+ 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 coalcarr@bham.rr.com or call me during office hours at (205) 424-1381.

**Thank you,
Bob Carr, AQH Treasurer**

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...



Alabama Quail Hunters

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