



NEWSLETTER

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

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2008 FALL FIELD TRIAL

It was a great way to spend a Saturday for a quail hunter. It was a clear cool morning with temperatures warming slightly in the day with a gentle breeze. Our AQH fall field trial was held on Shaw's Farm located west of Montevallo. Competitors arrived early in the day with about thirty dogs. Competing dog breeds included German Shorthairs, Brittanys, English Setters and English Pointers. Many thanks go to all our competitors. Each of you pre-registered your dogs allowing the trial to move ahead on time.

Tack Mims has a competitive kennel of dogs including the first place winner in the Gun Dog Class with his English Pointer, named Kate and also, the third place winner in the Gun Dog Class with his English Pointer, named Lil.

The trial was chaired and organized by Robby Thomas who spent the day on and off an ATV placing birds for the braces. Many of our members brought their friends, children, and grandchildren to enjoy petting the dogs and playing in the fresh air. The breakfast, lunch, all-day snacks and cold drinks were good and kept everyone energized. Thanks to all who helped make the trial a success. Thanks to Robby for his efforts as chairman.

Gates Shaw was a wonderful host. He cut paths through his fields, limbed-up many trees to allow a better gallery field of view, allowed us free run of his



Jason Williams with Sioux on point after retrieving one of Jason's dead birds she put down at her feet to make the point.

property including his cabin with a welcoming fire place for the event. His land has good topography for our trial format. Many thanks go to Gates for his hard work and generosity. It was a fun day for all in attendance.

Simmons Sporting Goods in Bessemer donated twenty boxes of shotgun shells and some camo ball caps that we raffled to some of our judges and awarded to each of our winners. Holcombe's Building Supply in Montevallo donated four of the twelve 50 pound sacks of dog food that was also awarded to each of our winners. Be sure to shop with these businesses and thank them in person for their support of AL Quail Hunters.

Congratulations to all our AQH winners in all the events listed below.

Frank



At Richard Anderson's Covey Rise Plantation. Richard Whitten with his English Setter.

Fall 2008

Gates Shaw Farm

	<u>Puppy</u>	<u>Handler</u>	<u>Derby</u>	<u>Handler</u>
3	None		3	Rebel
2	Sophie	Rachel Cole	2	Bama
1	Pollie	Aaron Parker	1	Sugar

	<u>Senior</u>	<u>Handler</u>	<u>3 Gun</u>	<u>Handler</u>
3	Kate	R. Anderson	3	Lil
2	Peg	T. Hopwood	2	Kate
1	Kate	M. Barlow	1	Kate

High Temperature 72 degrees.

Slight frost early in the week.

Cullman Lease Update

I met Mike at the Lease Saturday morning and let the dogs run. The place looked like a winter wonderland with the heaviest frost I have seen in a long, long time. Found one wild covey of about 12-15 birds. Hardest thing in the world I found is not shooting at these birds but we used already harvested birds to let the dogs retrieve after the birds got up. Place really looks good for wild birds and training. Only hunted in the area around the mud hole (both sides). Released 10 birds and killed all ten birds. My one year old female shorthair really showed a lot of promise. Hunted hard, pointed birds and partially retrieved. Mike's little setter is really looking good, if he can only get him to retrieve.

Terry L. Ballew

Bob Carr, AQH Treasurer

HEY FOLKS

Recently, I had the opportunity to serve on the committee to revise the NBCI plan for Alabama. NBCI is the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative that originated in 2002 out of the Southeast Quail Study Group. The NBCI was developed with the goal of returning the number of quail coveys to the population levels present in 1980. Quail populations have declined by 65% from 1980 to 1999. You may have seen the news in the *Covey Rise* publication that Scott County, Missouri has increased their quail population to their 1980 number. Thanks to Missouri for taking the lead.

I attended a workshop in Auburn for land managers, games war-

dens, small game biologist and other parties interested in learning about NBCI's revised information reporting system. NBCI will use the Global Information Systems, (GIS), to upload current quail information from land managers' computers. Starting with a map of the state of Alabama, NBCI divided it into northern, central and southern divisions. Land managers, state wildlife biologist and others scanned the map to identify portions of land by county that have potential habitat to support bobwhite quail populations. Only 2 counties in Alabama's northern division met their criteria. Blocks of 10 square miles were identified within each county. The AL NBCI

revision is being led by Theron M. Terhune, a biologist with Tall Timbers Research from Tallahassee, FL. Tall Timbers is also conducting similar revisions in Mississippi.

Hopefully, this current information will assist in writing a quail restoration plan for Alabama. It has been proven that the more contiguous acres dedicated to quail habitat, the greater your chance of success. So, encouraging your neighbors to develop quail habitat on their land may be the best thing you can do for your property and the future of quail.

Enjoy the holidays!

Frank, AQH President

Treasurer's Desk

Check your mailing label and if "12/09" does not follow your name, your 2009 dues are now payable.

Please send 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, e-mail me at coalcarr@bham.rr.com or call me during office hours at (205) 424-1381

Thank You,

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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Cell Phone (____) _____

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New Member

Renewal

2009 DUES – \$15.00

Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"

Call N. H. Holt, 205-936-6293 for more information, contact.

1901 Morgan Road S.E. Bessemer, Alabama 35022



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