



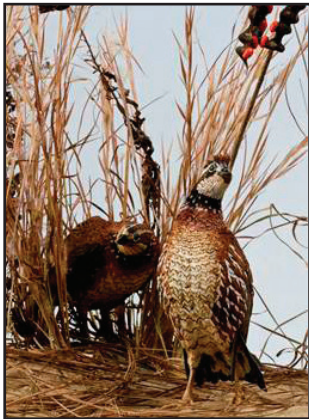
NEWSLETTER

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

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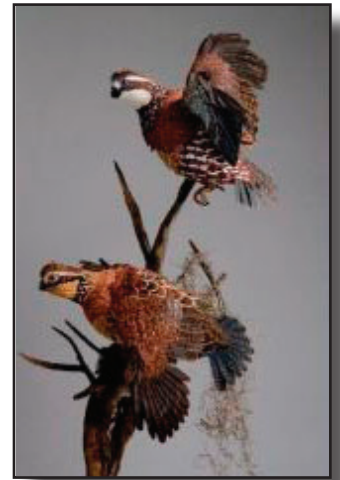
AQH Featured Speaker on August 12th

We encourage you to attend our August 12th meeting at Golden Corral. Our speaker will be Mr. Jack Tribble. In addition to being a successful businessman, Mr. Tribble is an accomplished painter and carver. Mr. Tribble's interest in carving and more specifically quail carvings started a mere 4 years ago. Being a true artisan Mr. Tribble wanted to study and learn about the bird itself, its habits, as well as its habitat. As a result, he developed a keen interest in the longleaf pine ecosystem.



Feel free to access the link:

https://www.sportingartists.com/sporting-art-by-artist.php?artist_id=39 to marvel at Mr. Tribble's work. I think you will agree his work and attention to detail is second to none!



So please join us on August 12th for what should be a truly memorable evening!

AQH Spring Field Trial Winners

Gun Dog

1st Place- N.H. Holt - Belle

2nd Place- Tom Hopwood - Sugar

3rd Place- R. Stone - Sally

Derby

1st Place- Thurman Campbell - Buzz

2nd Place- R. Stone - Spot

Senior Dog

1st Place- Bob Carr - Maize

2nd Place- Tom Hopwood - Sugar

3rd Place- N.H. Holt - Sam

Puppy

1st Place- Mike Barlow - Winston

2nd Place - Bob Carr - Cloie



Five Wingshooting Tips

By: Bill Cooper

Bird hunters are often fanatics that are dedicated to the pursuit of their favorite wingshooting quarry. Traditionally, they invest in the best guns, the best equipment and the best places to hunt. Little is left to fault. However, most bird hunters will agree that one of the most neglected aspects of the sport is one of the most important, time spent with that favorite firearm.

Bird hunters are known to prepare well before their seasons arrive. The off season is the time when they work with dogs to get them into tip top shape, touch up camo paint on duck boats, sew up layout blinds, paint decoys, buy new camo clothes and the latest gear. Smart wingshooters scout out new places to hunt and make contacts well ahead of season. If they have leases, much time is spent planting food plots and making improvements to hunting grounds. Some spend long hours tweaking personal shotshell loads.

However, far too few gunners spend appropriate amounts of time shooting their shotgun under circumstances which mimic their actual hunting conditions. The attitude that wingshooting is much like riding a bicycle, once you learn it always comes back, simply does not apply to wingshooting. The appropriate phrase is more like: "use it or lose it." Following are five tips to help keep your wingshooting skills honed.

Point, Don't Aim

Wingshooting is a reaction sport. Shots often have to be made quickly. Attempting to aim at a fleeing target takes a precious second or two and often puts the shooter behind the game, with many missed shots being the result.

Both eyes should be kept open while swinging on a bird. Let your natural instincts take over. Your eyes will naturally follow the target. Practice pointing your index finger at a flying clay target. Follow it and as your finger blacks out the target, say, "Boom," and continue your follow through until the target hits the ground. Repeating this feat often will give you a smooth, steady swing with both eyes open.

Develop the habit of pointing the index finger of the hand with which you grip the forearm, down the barrel. It will feel awkward at first, but soon you will discover that, like your eyes, your finger will follow the target as well. Good shooting is about hand and eye coordination.

Keep Head on Stock — Elevate Elbow

Improper gun alignment is a key ingredient to most misses. Gun placement on the shoulder, elbow height and cheek alignment on the stock all influence accuracy. Keeping your head on the stock while pointing and firing is paramount. Shooters often lift their heads just before pulling the trigger on targets that are flying straight away, angling or dropping.

Elevating the elbow of the arm to which the gun is mounted will naturally push the head closer to the stock and keep the gun tight to the cheek. For targets which are dropping quickly, raise the elbow a bit more. This action will keep the head down on the stock with the downward motion of the firearm. With rising targets, less elbow height makes it easier to keep your cheek to the stock as the target rises. Elbow height should be used as a variable for a proper gun mount on a moving target.

Adjust Stance Relative to Target Flight

A proper shooting stance, in any situation, makes good gun alignment much easier. A good stance will greatly improve shooting ability and success. Much like pointing the index finger, aligning the left foot (if right handed) as a pointer to the exact spot where you want to hit the target makes the process much easier. Right hand shooters will do well to place their left foot slightly ahead of the right with a comfortable spread between the feet. Slightly more weight should be placed on the forward foot. A slightly forward lean to the left foot completes the stance. Think balance.

Place Shotgun Correctly Before Mounting

Sporting clays practice is a great way to practice gun placement prior to the shot. Some clays shooters mount their gun before the clay is released. This is not good practice for the wingshooter. On the flip side of the coin, many who do not prefer to mount their gun before the clay is released, develop the bad habit of holding their gun too low or pointing it in an awkward direction. The key is to position the gun correctly before mounting it. For trap shooting, simply align your gun somewhere between the trap house and the point where you want to break the target. For a hunting situation, most hunters utilize a "port-arms" carry, with the shotgun held across the chest, diagonally, with both hands. These positions, for both scenarios, minimizes unneeded gun movement, and produces a gun mount that is fast, fluid and on target. Improper gun placement before the mount is one of the biggest contributing factors to misses.

Analyze Flight Path And Shot Location

It all happens so fast on the range or in the field. Like all the other points for better shooting, analyzing target flight path and the best shot location, enhances consistent success. Most times a target, or bird, will fly with a slight curve, rise, angle or drop. Many times there will be a short window where the target gives the best presentation for a shot. A perfect example is a group of ducks dropping into a decoy set quickly, while rocking and careening. When a bird shows the most surface area is the time to pull the trigger. Lots of practice is the key to anticipating flight path and shot location. Spending lots of time in the field studying the habits and flight patterns of your favorite game bird is the final solution to bringing these five shooting pointers to fruition.

Wingshooting is a difficult, but highly rewarding pursuit. Don't short yourself when it comes to spending time with your favorite wingshooting shotgun. It will be time well spent.

HEY FOLKS

A dozen members of AQH traveled to south Cullman County to visit the Stan and Suzanne Wood's farm, known as "Riverwood". After Stan's successful business venture was sold, Stan retired. He had the resources and time to pursue his dream of developing quail habitat. He invested in several tracts of farm and timberland, the majority of which was previously owned by a paper company that was growing pine pulpwood.

When we arrived at Riverwood, Stan greeted us with his German shorthaired pointer. He began his presentation by telling us the importance of controlling invasive species for quail habitat management. His chemical eradication focused on shrubs like privet, and grasses like bahia. Stan's use of chemicals is very meticulous for the species he wants to control. He explained the importance of using the right chemical products, properly measured, properly mixed and correctly sprayed.

Stan's barn includes the equipment you would expect to find on a farm. Also included in Stan's barn is some logging equipment and a fire truck. Good road construction and maintenance is important to Stan allowing his equipment easy access to all the property. The logging equipment is used to thin pine timber stands. Pine stands are mostly loblolly, but some long leaf stands were recently planted. Reducing the tree density permits sunlight to dance on the ground stimulating plant growth. Wild and native plant growth is enhanced with fertilizer. Stan also uses prescribed burning as a component of habitat management.

Dove fields are maintained year round by planting corn and wheat. The corn planted in 2013 remains standing as food for the wildlife. This is evidence that he has no feral hog population. After the quail have finished nesting, the 2013 corn field will be disked for 2014-fall dove hunting. Plum thickets are being established for protection from predators. Stan traps predators daily. He has captured hundreds of raccoons, opossums, bobcats and skunks. Stan believes that improving habitat and controlling predators has significantly increased his wild quail population.

It is refreshing to see all of Stan's efforts to bring back the wild quail population on his property. His knowledge is at the forefront of quail management. He is at the beginning of reversing the downward spiral of quail numbers in Alabama. Thank you, Stan for your hospitality to AQH.

Frank,
President

Treasurer's Desk

A big "Thank You" to the 82 AQH members who have paid your 2014 dues. To the remaining 78 AQH members who have not yet paid your \$15, please write a check to AL Quail Hunters and mail it to me at 1901 Morgan Road, Bessemer, AL 35022. I will appreciate it.

Thank you,
Bob Carr,
AQH Treasurer

**Welcome To Our
Newest Member**

Wynn Payne from Leeds

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

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

Cell Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____

New Member

Renewal

2014 DUES – \$15.00

Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"

For more information call N. H. Holt @ 205-936-6293 or contact:



1901 Morgan Road S.E. Bessemer, Alabama 35022



Alabama Quail Hunters

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