



Pictured above (L to R): Dale Bush, Rick Smith, Carol Pulliam, Janet Chase, Mary Karbiner, Dr. John Webb, Neil Mace, Delmar Smith, Jim Chase, Bill Norvell, Ken Blackman, Dick Pulliam.

Photo Courtesy of Vera Courtney, Hickory Valley, TN.

Dog Days Come Early to Grand Junction

Ken Blackman

The Dog Days of Summer came early to West Tennessee in 2011. Well, not really, but May 6th was as glorious in the weather as was the significance of the 'doings' at the Bird Dog Foundation in Grand Junction. Brought together to dig up some of the finely manicured grass at the front step to the Museum, well over 50 people made a significant statement to the worldwide Bird Dog Community, that our sport will continue to honor the people and animals that are the reason we do what we do reveling in competition week in and week out. Politicians, Towns people, Owners, Trainers, Handlers, Judges, Scribes and just plain spectators helped the assemblage break ground for the soon to be constructed 6000 sq. ft. wing to house the memorabilia and exploits of Brittany, German Shorthair and Wirehair Pointers, Springer Spaniel, Vizsla, Wiemaraner and Irish Setter breeds and the folks that make it possible to showcase them in the field.

Both David Smith, Executive Director and Dale Bush, President of the Board, related the process formulated, several years ago, to make this day momentous in the Foundation's History. Dale singled out Jim and Janet Chase whose personal and financial commitment got us to this groundbreaking in such a short time frame. Along with the Killam family of Laredo, TX, Jim and Janet used every bit of polite, friendly and sometimes less than subtle charm to raise the funds in order to position the Brittany Group as one of the two top fundraisers on the initial \$350,000 needed to complete the construction. An additional equal amount will be needed over the next several years to fully ensure that the endowment is available to maintain the Sporting Dog Wing. As it stands today both the Brittany and GSP/GWP breeds will be allocated equal amounts of floor space to showcase memorabilia cogent to the Field Trial History of each breed. The remainder of the space will be allocated to the other Continental breeds of note, based upon the amounts their respective committees collected.

But, as pointed out by Dale, without the long time support and dedication begun by Delmar Smith and carried on by his son and current BFTHOF Chairman, Rick Smith, the keystone of the Museum itself probably would never have been undertaken in the late 80's. The founding members, Bernie Matths, Bill Brown, Wilson Dunn and Gary Lockee are certainly to be held in extremely high regard for getting the Foundation started and sheperded over the 20 years since the first building segment was opened. In addition to the Chases and Smiths, BDF Board member, Dr. John Webb, Mary Karbiner, Neil Mace, Bill Norvell (owner of HOF Brandy's Bullett) and Dick and Carol Pulliam, who brought along their great champion, Grand Junction Jake, attended representing the Brittany Field Trial Community across North America. However, it would be less than honest if we didn't recognize Dave and Joyce Lincoln, Jim and Mary Crawford, Ray and Mary Jo Trimble, Bill and Rheta Cartmel and the other Directors of the BFTHOF, who were unable to attend, but also had significant contributions to the efforts over the years to maintain the BFTHOF and to support the fund raising programs to help get us to this point.

If I may pose a personal slant on this event, I felt overwhelmed by the presence of the history of our breed in North America and hoped that we who will be tasked to carry on this part of the competitive arena, do it with the passion and commitment exhibited by this assemblage of leadership in the Brittany community. Please visit the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame web site at <http://www.brittanyfieldtrialhalloffame.com> or www.americanbrittanyclub.com to see up to date information on nominations and any Brittany related activities. Better yet, contact any Director if you wish to make a donation toward the Sporting Dog Wing.