

Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame

2011 Hall of Fame Inductions – Grand Junction, TN

By: Diana Kubitz

The Bird Dog Foundation is '*dedicated to preserving the past and protecting the future for sporting dog fanciers the world over*'. This is the mission statement of the chartered, non-profit, charitable organization known as the Bird Dog Foundation.

To those ends, its museum, projects and other initiatives are aimed at: Preserving the rich legacy of sporting dogs via historic artifacts, art, and other memorabilia...Recognizing those people and dogs that have made significant contributions to the sport of field trialing...Supporting and promoting responsible dog ownership, training, field trialing, hunting, and the shooting sports...Promoting conservation of our natural resources by educating the general public – especially encouraging and involving youth in programs relating to dog sports and wholesome outdoor recreation.

Gary and I were very excited to attend the Hall of Fame Inductions this year on February 12, 2011, in Grand Junction. Friday night, the Brittany contingent met in the newly opened restaurant at the motel and had dinner together. We talked about the future of the new Brittany wing and how we might raise the rest of the needed money.

Beginning this article with the Mission Statement, I felt would help convey the sense of commitment the people at the Bird Dog Foundation and the Bird Dog Museum have. As you walk through the museum you are imbued with a sense of history and all things pertaining to bird dogs. Seeing the names that you have only heard or read about is only the beginning. From the antique guns and ratty old field trial hats, to the wonderful artwork and paintings adorning the walls, you are left with a sense of the timelessness of our sport, feeling one with all that has gone on before.

The morning began with the inductees from the Spaniel and Retriever groups. As usual everything was professional and well managed. The booklet this year was sponsored and produced by "Sport Dog" and their involvement was much appreciated. After the morning session we were treated to a wonderful lunch provided by Purina. It was a terrific meal and it provided time for catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

At 2:00 p.m. the afternoon session began with a moving invocation by Dr. Virginia Jones Finzel, the minister of the First United Methodist Church of Grand Junction, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. I was comforted by the thought that all these fine ladies and gentlemen valued our country and, despite efforts to take God and country out of our lives, it lives on in Grand Junction where all the old traditions are still honored.

The first order of business was the presentation of plaques by David Fletcher of Morrice, Michigan. I waited to see the look on John Tiedeman's face when he accepted the plaque for his parents, Bill and Velma Tiedeman. My thanks to all that contributed to their patron plaque.

This was followed by recognition of the attending living members of the Brittany, GSP and Pointer/Setter Field Trial Hall of Fame and then families of deceased members of the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

The people and dogs inducted in all the breeds were deserving and proud of the honors bestowed on them. One that touched me in a personal way was the induction of Tom Honecker. He contributed much to the sport of field trialing, even letting some of his own land at Killdeer Plains be used in for trials. Tom was a

former judge for the ABC nationals and was always welcomed everywhere he went. He was involved with the 20th Century Fund and led the way in recommending financial aid that helped many field trial groups in the past. Tom passed away on March 4, 2010, and the bird dog world misses him. Tom and Ron Zook are running bird dogs right now, I'm sure.

Brittany's were first on the agenda for scroll presentations. If I counted right we had 28 Brittany people in attendance for these inductions. Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame members present were: Bob Rankin, Ray Trimble, Frank Pride, Jim Chase, Dave Lincoln and last, but not least Delmar Smith. Delmar Smith is the only person to be honored by both the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame and the Pointer/Setter Field Trial Hall of Fame.

Rick Smith presided over the Brittany presentations and his words expressed the passion he felt as chairman of our group. Our only person inducted for 2011 was **Warren Montgomery**. Warren was accompanied by his wife Carol, his daughter, his grandson, brother and other friends and family. Warren has been a member of the ABC for over 40 years and started in the Greater Indianapolis Brittany Club.

Warren spearheaded the re-emergence of the International Championship in the late '70's and relocated it to Indiana. He was a founder of the Brittany All-Age Dog of the Year Award, now known as the Purina All-Age Dog of the Year. Warren served as director of the ABC and served as an officer of regional clubs. Currently he is the treasurer of the Prairie State Championship organization. Warren owned, trained, and campaigned NAC/DC/AFC Hi-Spirit Buck who has a place in the ABC Hall of Fame. Warren was in his glory handling Buck to his many championship wins.

Warren has also judged the ABC National Open Championship, National Amateur Championship three times, ABC Gun Dog Classic Twice, ABC National Gun Dog Championship, ABC Chukar Championship, Irish Setter Nationals, and regional trials too numerous to mention. We were proud to welcome Warren into the Brittany Bird Dog Hall of Fame.

Home Acres Allspice (1975-1988) or Sally as she was known was whelped in 1975 by breeder/owners Bobby and Barb Youngs. Her sire was HOF Ban-Dee and her dam FC B's Sandy Valley Sassafrass. During her lifetime she was owned by Don Young, Jim Holman and Harry Robb. Bobby and Jim both handled Sally to many field trial wins. Don Young and his son Ross spent many hours bird hunting over Sally.

All who knew her recognized her natural and intense instincts. Sally was one of the top producing bitches of hour winners in our breed. The list of her progeny includes Hall Famers, numerous National Champions and too many hour winners to count. Nine years after her death, almost 20% of the dogs running at the ABC National Championships could be traced back to her. Her legacy and production record were a valued contribution to our breed. She was bred 5 times to 3 different sires and has become known as a "Blue Hen" producer as her progeny continued their winning ways thru every generation and still today. In the first generation, Sally produced 11 field winners with 4 field champions, totaling 17 one-hour wins. The most notable were Home Acres Risk, The Magic Moment, Scattman and Jug. Kentucky White Diamond and Judy Judy produced many field winners and Hall of Fame dogs.

Barb and Bobby Youngs, and Ross Young accepted the Scroll for Sally. They already had an oil painting as Barb took a chance on a raffle ticket many years ago at a field trial and won the opportunity to have her dog's painting done. Not bad for a \$5.00 investment!

Photos were taken and we were treated to a reception after the presentations by the American Field Publishing Company. This provided more opportunity for fellowship and swapping field trial tales.

Dick and Carol Pulliam hosted a wonderful celebration at their lovely home in Grand Junction after the other events of the day. Carol's food presentations looked and tasted like a "Martha Stewart" moment. The Pulliam's hospitality was welcoming and much appreciated.

If you haven't taken the opportunity to visit the Bird Dog Museum, please don't miss this. If you are anywhere in Tennessee, take the time to view this wonderful museum. I promise you will be impressed and find it worth your time. Check out their website for current hours of operation. You can also visit the original Wilson Dunn store; see the "Big House," and the grounds where the Pointer/Setter Nationals are run.

This write-up would not be complete without thanking Mary Crawford for all her hard work. Mary is a detail oriented person and she made sure that we all had room reservations and that we all knew what was happening when. She is a valuable asset to the Brittany Hall of Fame committee as corresponding secretary.

If you haven't donated to the building fund for the Continental Breed addition and would like to do so, contact Jim Chase, Dave Lincoln, Rick Smith or any of the committee members. Please check out the new website at: <http://www.brittanyfieldtrialhalloffame.com/>. Thanks go to Marc Rittner for all the hours he contributed in the past and thanks also to Steve Ralph for helping Mary Crawford put the new site together and getting it on line. It's time now to start thinking about your nominations for the people and dogs you feel deserve to be in the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame for 2012.