

BRITTANY FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME

Class of 2009 Inducted at Ceremonies

The Bird Dog Museum in Grand Junction, TN, buzzed with excitement on February 7. Sunny skies and warm temperatures brought inductees, their families and friends to the Bird Dog Foundation for this great day. Brittany enthusiasts attended the ceremonies at which one distinguished person and one outstanding dog officially became Brittany Field Trial Hall of Famers, the highest honor given in field trialing. The greatest of the greats are enshrined here - both dogs and people who have made significant contributions to the field trial sport.

We welcome the new Chairman of the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame, Rick Smith. William Cartmell, now Honorary Chairman, handed over the reigns to him last fall and Rick is actively working to continue and gain support for this organization.

After a buffet luncheon hosted by Purina, the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame ceremonies began the presentation of Life Patron Plaques from the National Bird Dog Association to three longtime supporters of field trialing: Bill Cartmell, Bob Fleury, and Neil Mace. These recipients are honored as having contributed to the improvement of the breed and the sport over the years.

Current hall of fame members present were recognized: Rheta Cartmell, John and Judy Webb, Delmar Smith, Jim Chase, Bob Fleury, Rosco Staton and Frank Pride.

Lloyd Conable with Jim and Janet Chase presented a complete bound set of American Brittany Club magazines to the William F. Brown Memorial Library at the Museum. These books were donated in memory of Ella Conable, hall of fame member.

Scrolls were presented to the two new Hall of Fame inductees, William Cartmell and Shady's Chik-N-Little, with owners Clem and Marilynne Little attending.

William Cartmell Bill grew up hunting with his father and, after hearing about this new dog from France, he drove to see this great breed of dog in action. After acquiring his first Brittany in 1962, he joined the Upper New York Brittany club, was smitten by the sport of field trialing and began to compete in Brittany trials.

Bill soon became involved with promoting and establishing one-hour Brittany stakes notably the International Brittany Championship and the US Open Brittany Championship. For many years thereafter, he pushed for endurance Brittany stakes, writing articles, studying statistics and encouraging breeders to breed and produce dogs that could compete in hour stakes.

Bill was even more dedicated to another of his goals...the establishment of a Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame. He promoted the Hall of Fame idea and became the driving force behind its establishment. He, along with Rheta, managed this Hall of Fame for many years, from the nomination process through the induction ceremonies at the Bird Dog Museum. No one deserves to be Hall of Famer more than Bill Cartmell.

Shady's Chik-N-Little Chikie, owned by Marilynne and Clem Little, was one of the top all age contenders in the country. A powerful running bitch with 18 firsts out of 47 total placements. She was a child prodigy B winning puppy & derby points at just 7 months of age and placing 2nd in her first Open All Age stake at just 13 months. She competed in the National OAA Championships until she lost part of her lung to a weed seed and was retired at 8 years of age.

Chikie's biggest accomplishment was her contribution to the Brittany breed. She produced 6 litters by 4 different sires and became known as a "Blue Hen" producer. Her record of production increases daily with one-hour winners still coming three generations later. She produced in the first generation 7 Amer FC and 4 R-U, and 12 one-hour winners with a total of 68 hour placements.

The two most notable progeny are: NFC, 8x Amer. FC, R-U NAFC, DC/AFC Shady's Tia Maria with 22 hour placements, and 3x Amer. FC, 5x R-U Amer FC Tequila Joker's Jose Cuervo with 14 hour placements.

The Bird Dog Museum should be visited by every bird dog lover! It is one of a kind and first-time attendees are always amazed. Exhibits range from display cases of trophies, to sections devoted to various breeds and walls covered with plaques, hall of fame dogs and people. One of the most fascinating rooms is devoted to a taxidermist's preservation of wildlife where shelves are filled with various game birds and small game.

"To be enshrined in a Hall of Fame is the greatest achievement in the field trial sports."

by Mary Crawford