

Brittany Greats Named to 2010 Field Trial Hall of Fame

"At the junction of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad line in southwest Tennessee lies hallowed ground.....a place of memorable events, people, and bird dogs. A place that honors excellence, sportsmanship, and commitment. A place for those notable few that richly deserve a place in history." Kent Patterson

It was a banner event for members of the Brittany community, who gathered at the Bird Dog Museum in Grand Junction, TN, on February 6 to pay tribute to new inductees. Family, friends, hall of famers and 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.

Everyone involved with the Bird Dog Foundation sincerely appreciates the dedication of David Smith, Executive Director of the Foundation, and his staff, in making the Museum and Ceremonies first class. As Master of Ceremonies, David opened the morning session to honor inductees for the Retrievers and Spaniels.

After a buffet lunch provided by Nestle Purina, with Bob West and Roy Pelton in attendance, the afternoon session convened. Dale Bush, Bird Dog Foundation President, began with remarks about the status of fundraising for the new wing to the Museum building. Jim Chase presented him with checks totaling \$22,000 for the Brittany addition. The Brittany program commenced with Dave Fletcher announcing and presenting Life Patron plaques honoring Ed Sawicki and Ron Curtis for their contribution to the improvement of the breed and sport over the years. Next, Jim and Janet Chase were presented a plaque representing the Founders Perpetual Membership Award. The Founders award is given by the Board of Directors of the Bird Dog Museum in recognition of a \$5,000 single contribution to the Bird Dog Foundation..

Current hall of fame members present were recognized: Bill and Rheta Cartmell, John and Judy Webb, Delmar Smith, Jim Chase, Rosco Staton, Loyd Budd, Francis Clasen and Frank Pride. Also attending the ceremonies were Dave & Joyce Lincoln, Dave Lincoln Jr, Mary Crawford, Mary Karbiner, Lyle & Marge Johnson, Janet Staton, Donna Pride, Bill & Mary Dierberg, Ken Blackman, Neil Mace and Dick & Carol Pulliam.

Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame Chairman Rick Smith then proceeded with the much anticipated inductions!

Delmar Smith accepted the scroll for the deserving dog **Bazooka's Brandy**. Delmar commented that he had Brandy's mom, dad and grandparents on his field trial string and Brandy passed to his progeny the ability to hunt in the South Texas heat. Brandy was owned by Dan Huddleston of Oklahoma and the Smiths' campaigned Brandy until his death. Brandy won the 1966 National Open Brittany championship and the 1968 U.S. Open Brittany Championship. He was R-U at the Oklahoma Open Brittany Championship, placed in the 1965 Futurity and produced over 100 field trial winners with numerous Field Trial Champions. He sired two Field Trial HOF members-- Brandy's Bullet and Scipio Spinks. It is truly amazing that he is in the pedigree of ten Field Trial Hall of Fame dogs, five of which were national open or amateur champions.

Our Chairman Rick Smith then introduced distinguished person **Dr. Robert Rankin** for induction. He commented that four generations of his family have used Bob as their GI physician. Bob then thanked Rick for funding his new aluminum horse trailer!

Bob has a long list of credits and accomplishments in the field trial ranks. For 30 years, he has supported field trials, for 22 years been President of the premier U.S. Open Brittany Championship, for 20 years been a Director of the American Brittany Club and President of the No. Oklahoma Brittany Club. He is a sought after judge for championships, both national and regional, by Brittanys and many other sporting breeds. He was a founding member of the Brittany All-Age Dog of the Year Award and continues to maintain the records and coordinate the presentation event. Bob has served on the grounds committee for Ardmore and Booneville trial grounds and was recently named Director at Large for Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America.

Bob has campaigned four stand-out Brittanys: HOF and NOCh Minnehaha's Tammy, NACH Tequila Jack II, FC Way Kan Duke and FC/AFC TJ's Thunder. Also, he has trialed two American FC pointers.

Thus, ended the induction ceremonies for our Brittany greats!! It was truly a memorable weekend and you must attend next year.

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
Photos by Dave Fletcher*