

2013 Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame Induction

By: Diana Kubitz



Rick Smith and Brenda and Earl Weak (Janet's Sister)

We arrived in Memphis to a beautiful day with 70 degree temperatures, what a blessing after leaving cold, windy & snowy weather in Michigan. On Friday we hung pictures in our new Brittany wing. Mary Crawford, Mary Karbiner and Steve Ralph did a tremendous job in finding missing photos of our human and canine inductees from the past. Mary Crawford had the tremendous job of framing all those photos; I believe the number was 50! Ken Windom took on the task of attaching the wires to the backs of frames so they could be hung. Mary Crawford organized us and assigned tasks. Gary and I worked in one section hanging pictures and Rick Smith worked in a different area. Mary Karbiner was replacing furniture to display trophies and memorabilia. Willo Barfield was Mary C's trusted assistant and kept Mary on task. While we worked hard, it was a labor of love that we all gave gladly. Rick was to state several times over our time in Tennessee that he was amazed at how much time and dedication the Brittany people were willing to give to something in which they believed.

As you walk down the rows of photos and portraits you feel like you are visiting old friends and you feel a mixture of nostalgia and pride for all the work that went into the new Brittany wing. While there are many people to thank for their efforts on behalf of the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame, Jim and Janet Chase's names will always head the top of the list. Without their tireless efforts our new wing would never have been built.

Saturday morning induction ceremonies were held for the Spaniel Field Trial Hall of Fame and The Retriever Field Trial Hall of Fame. A luncheon honoring all of the 2013 Inductees followed the morning's ceremonies, which was generously provided by Nestle Purina. It was as delicious as I had remembered and much appreciated by everyone. It gave us time to chat with people, greet old friends and meet new friends. Special thanks to our friends from Purina: Bob West, Pat Lamantia, and Roy Pelton. We appreciate all that they do for our breed and our sport.

As the afternoon began, David Fletcher of Morrice Michigan presented recognition plaques, the first of which was a Founders Plaque presented to Mary Karbiner! Mary was also presented a Patron Memorial Plaque for Loyd Budd.

As we were preparing for the actual inductions, I was busily scribbling down names of the Brittany participants present. We had 41 Brittany people in attendance and I believe that we had the largest attendance of any breed.

Rick Smith, Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame President, presided over the Brittany induction. We had just one induction this year – Janet Chase. Rick had been able to speak to Janet before she died to let her know that she had been the sole electee for 2013. Janet was born on May 4, 1948, in Kingman, Kansas and passed away Wednesday, October 17, 2012, at the age of 64. Janet met Jim while in college in Oklahoma and after they were married, they



Mary Jo, Rick Smith, Brenda & Earl Weak and (Jim's Sister) Julie Wright – her husband Doug is barely in the photo at all.

moved to Deerfield, Illinois. Janet was a CPA with Veatch Rich and Nadler Accounting Firm until her retirement when she and Jim moved to Red Bud, Illinois. Jim preceded her in death on April 28, 2012.

Janet was the treasurer of the American Brittany Club for twenty five years where she used her profession to manage the ABC's finances. The Chases were members of the Illinois Brittany Club, the LaSalle Brittany Club, the Prairie States Brittany Championship Association, and The Illinois Brittany Championship Association. They ran the Illinois Paw Paw walking trial, which helped pay for several American Field Championships and was known everywhere as a major field trial success story. Janet was field trial secretary and helped with everything she could at trials, from judging and handling dogs to helping as road guard during the running.

Janet kept track of all the contributions that came in for the new Sporting Dog Wing from 2005 – 2012. The Chases were generous financial contributors to the Bird Dog Foundation and were honored with a Founder's Perpetual Membership by the Board of the Bird Dog Foundation.

Janet and Jim's contribution to our breed, the sport of field trialing, and the Bird Dog Foundation is well documented, but their greatest contribution was friendship, loyalty and a helping hand to new comers. They were a huge part of our Brittany family and leave a hole in our hearts and our organization that can never be filled. According to Brenda Weak (Janet's sister) and Julie Wright (Jim's Sister), Jim and Janet felt the same love and affection for all of us as well. We were an extended part of their family.

It was with a mixture of overwhelming pride and sadness that we listened to Rick's words as we looked at the beautiful portrait that Ross Young had painted of Janet, maybe one of

his best works ever. He captured the Janet that we all knew and loved, a sparkle in her eye and a smile on her face. As the last sentence of Janet's write-up in the Induction book said: "God-bless you Janet, and thank you for being a part of our lives and our sport." Her portrait hangs for 2013 next to Trademark and in 2014 will be moved to its permanent position beside Jim's portrait.

Huge thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Brittany wing and the Bird Dog Foundation and also to those individuals who attended these ceremonies to honor Janet. Our work with our wing has just begun. A museum quality case was made to house the Pheasant Classic Trophy and plans are underway for more cases to house the rest of the classic trophies. Please consider a contribution to the Bird Dog Foundation for the Brittany wing in 2013 to help with the cost involved in finishing projects and meeting our yearly obligations. One thing I must leave you with, if you are anywhere near Grand Junction or even if you're not, please plan a trip to look around this fabulous museum steeped in tradition. Everything you look at has a story to tell. I promise you it will be well worth your time and you will feel the pride that everyone feels once they have visited this wonderful monument to our sport and our breed.

My final thank-you goes to Dick Pulliam for accepting a seat on the Bird Dog Foundation board. He was seated at Sunday's board meeting and worked extremely hard to make sure that things were in place in our wing in anticipation of this year's induction ceremonies. Thank you Dick for taking on this task and being our eyes and ears!

See you all next year in February at the Hall of Fame Inductions!