

Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame 2018 Inductions

February 10, 2018

By: Diana Kubitz

This year's trip to the induction ceremony in Grand Junction, TN was a wonderful experience, let me share some of it with you. Mary & Jim Crawford and Gary & I were first to arrive in Collierville and had time for a great dinner and make plans for work that needed to be done in the next two days prior to the ceremonies. We like our wing to look its best and we always have new items to display. Our Chairman Rick Smith arrived late Thursday evening and joined us for our Friday planning and work. Delmar had also arrived and the ladies surprised us at the museum by inviting us to lunch! Any time spent with Delmar Smith is time well spent! Thank you, Cissy, for the lunch and thanks to the entire staff for their warm welcome and hospitality! Tonya Brotherton has been the best addition to the National Bird Dog Museum and our many thanks to her for all her work on our behalf!

Friday the BFTHF had a happy hour with munchies and a bar from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Thanks to the Crawford's, Willo Barfield & Steve Hintzel and Rick Smith for setting up this lovely time for visiting! This was a prelude to the dinner at the "Barn" of William and Tommi Smith that we were all invited to in celebration of Kent Patterson's induction on Saturday. William judged our nationals this past year in Booneville for the second time. As I entered the barn I was greeted by Brittany friends and many of the judges that had judged for us at the ABC nationals in the past. The barn was lovely and the food was outstanding! Our thanks to William and Tommi Smith for a very memorable evening. Bird dog people are the best!

The morning induction ceremonies began with the Spaniels and Retrievers and was followed by a wonderful buffet lunch sponsored by Nestle' Purina. It was delicious as usual and very much enjoyed by all. A new Brittany family, Travis Shuler, his wife and two children made their first visit to the museum and induction ceremonies. After I made sure they had lunch, I took the kids into the "bird room" as Gary likes to call it and answered their many questions about all the different animals and especially the snakes! They enjoyed their time spent that afternoon and it gave me the chance to remember my first time attending with Bill and Rheta Cartmell. We've been back many times since then and I wanted to make sure the Shuler family would be with us for a long time

too. We sometimes forget to include new people and take the time to explain what's going on at a show or trial or an important event like the HOF ceremonies. Simple gestures can mean so much and making the effort can bring in new members to our clubs and our sport. Travis and his family are coming up to Michigan for our trial in late March!

Tonya Brotherton, Executive Director, of the Bird Dog Foundation, Inc. welcomed everyone to the afternoon's proceedings. Donald Driggers, President, of the Bird Dog Foundation was ill and unable to attend. The mayor of Grand Junction and the Honorable Curtis Lane welcomed us all and warned that Tonya told him to be brief. Karl Gunzer of Nestle' Purina said a few words of welcome and all were appreciative of Purina's efforts on our sport's behalf. Attending living members of the Brittany, German Shorthaired Pointer and the Pointer/Setter Field Hall of Fame were asked to stand. Family members attending of deceased members of these groups were also recognized.

The ceremonies were changed slightly this year and Brittanys were not first. That was a good thing in many ways as it gave us a chance to hear about other breeds' accomplished people and dogs. The other change was the plaque presentation as they were the last presentations of the day.



Inductee Dave Fletcher

Long time Brittany enthusiast and reporter for the American Field, David Fletcher, was inducted into the BFTH this year after being inducted to the Pointer/Setter Field Trial Hall of Fame last year. Dave became addicted to field trials early on and participated since 1957 all over the US and Canada as a handler, judge and reporter. In this report I'll highlight what Dave did in the Brittany world. He was a member of many years in the Michigan Brittany Club and later years the Western Michigan Club. His list of accomplishments are many, among them the ABC Quail Classic judge in Richmond, KY, the Eastern Futurity, and the US Open Brittany Championship 3 times. He served as reporter of the ABC National Open Gun Dog Championship when it was walking for several years. Over 30 years ago Dave began the national Brittany Open Grouse Championship in Gladwin, MI and it runs yet today. Anyone who has attended that event has wonderful memories.

Dave married his wife Carol in 1968 and Delmar Smith gave him a Bazooka's Brandy puppy, Shiawasee Sioux, as a wedding present. Dave raised several litters using studs such as Tondée's Sandy Valley Duke and Perry's Rustic Prince and dams by Magnum's Masked Man. His best litter produced HOF Rimarda's Trademark! Trademark was out of The Real Thing bred to his Shiawasee Showtime Babe and thrilled many a field trialer throughout his years campaigned by the Holmans and owned by Jim and Janet Chase.

Dave has been a Director of the Bird Dog Foundation for 22 years and Board Secretary most of that term. He produces the brochure and plaques for the

foundation each year. He teamed with Rheta Cartmell to produce the Brittany "Book of the Eighties" and printed the ABC Yearbook for 25 years. Special Note: Dave's wife Carol has been ill and could use your thoughts and prayers.

Our second inductee this year was Kent Patterson. His wife, mother and children with spouses attended the induction for this special honor. Anyone who has ever read a report that Kent has written of a trial or heard him speak knows of Kent's acumen with words and he's a tough act to follow! Kent has served in many capacities for our breed at the national, regional and local level. For 11 years he was a director of the East Central Region and served as the ABC National Field Trial dates coordinator. He currently chairs the ABC Hall of Fame Committee for dogs and is a member of the ABC Finance Committee. Kent has been the only ABC Tritronics/Garmin Shooting Dog Award Point Coordinator in its 11-year history and serves on the board of the BFTHF. In May he became only the 4th Purina Pro Plan Liaison for ABC. He is a founding member of the Music City Brittany Club and its Dixieland Championship where he has been field trial secretary for 19 years. He was also a founding member and director for the Deep South Brittany Free-for-All Championship, a two-series endurance event considered by breed stalwarts to be one of the most difficult championships to capture. His male, 5X Ch One-N-Only, won the title in back to back years 2006 & 2007. He has been on the ABC National All Age Field Trial Committee for 9 championships.

A bird hunter for over 50 years, Kent's passion is handling dogs, particularly big running all-age dogs and he is widely considered one of the most skilled amateur handlers in our breed in the country. Twice he has won the ABC National Amateur All Age Championship, in 2006 with Just Call Me Roy and in 2007 with his own dog Maxwell's White Spirit. He also took the Runner-up titles with Maxwell's Gunsmoke in 2008 and Piney Run Art in 2012. Kent has won 16 American Field Championships, from the Deep South's red clay to the Missouri Breaks of South Dakota and has judged all pointing breeds across the country.

A skilled wordsmith, Kent has written a variety of articles, both biographical and fiction, for the ABC magazine, American Field and Pointing Dog Journal. His "Patron" article honoring Jim and Janet Chase hangs in the Bird Dog Museum. He is much sought after as a reporter for trials in his "spare time!" Unselfish is a word that best describes Kent. His



Inductee Kent Patterson
Martha Harris Patterson, Guy Patterson, Diane Patterson, Kent Patterson, Sheila Patterson, Dr. Seth Patterson, Miles Patterson, Harold Whitaker, Cassie Alsop Patterson, Dana Patterson Drake

great sportsmanship, good cheer, and long-time commitment to the Brittany at all levels makes him most deserving of induction into the BFTHF.



**Mary Crawford, Life Patron Plaque
Mary Crawford & Rick Smith**

Mary Crawford presented a Patron Memorial Plaque for Clem and Marilyn Little to their daughter Wendy Schmidt from Washington state. Diana Kubitz presented a Patron Memorial Plaque for Jane Hopper to Jane's husband Gil. Gil has asked that his copy of the plaque be hung in the field trial headquarters of the Ionia Field Trial Grounds. Dave Fletcher presented a Patron Memorial plaque for Ernie and Nora Facer. Rick Smith surprised Mary Crawford by presenting her with a Life Patron plaque for her dedication to our breed and her hard work as Secretary of the BFTHF!

At the conclusion of the afternoon's ceremonies, photos were taken and a reception honoring Hall of Fame Inductees was held courtesy of the American Field Publishing Co. Sponsors for the weekend were Garmin, Purina, Ainley Kennels & Fabrication, Harvester's Land Co., & Avery Outdoors. Check out the BFTHF website for more photos and to see what new things we have for sale! We hope to see some new faces in 2019 as visitors and inductees so make plans to attend next year! The walkway entry to the building with purchased bricks looks fantastic. There is still time to buy a brick. I found the one I purchased, how about you?



**Marilynne & Clem Little, Patron Memorial Plaque
Mary Crawford, Wendy Schmidt & Rick Smith**



**Jane Hopper, Patron Memorial Plaque
Diana Kubitz & Gil Hopper**

