

# 2023 Field Trial Hall of Fame Inductions

## Bird Dog Museum, Grand Junction, TN

This Hall of Fame's purpose is to honor individuals, past and present, both human and canine, who have made significant contributions to the field trial sport. Their legacies will be preserved so others can remember and be inspired.

Our celebrations began with the annual happy hour and auction at the Hampton Inn in Collierville, TN during the evening of February 10. Mary Crawford reserves a block of rooms for our group and this year we had about 40 Brittany folks come! It has become a tradition to have a welcome cocktail/snack party on Friday evening in the hotel lobby. The Hampton allows us to use their lobby/dining area for our gathering and makes us all feel welcome.

This year we were full to overflowing! Scott Johnson was our valiant auctioneer for the evening with Rick Smith handing up items and spotting bidders. Mary K kept track of the dollars as usual and reported that we made about \$3000. Attendees donated a multitude of items, Brittany and otherwise. We thank everyone for their personal and club contributions throughout this past year; every penny goes into our endowment fund to ensure our breed history will always have a home! During the auction, everyone snacked on the usual chick-fil-a and two different salads courtesy of Mary Jo and Mary along with drinks and beer by Dave Lincoln.

The HOF inductions took place on Saturday, February 11 at the Bird Dog Museum and since our portion was after lunch, it gave visitors a chance to tour our wing. A wonderful lunch buffet was served to everyone after the morning session sponsored by Purina, Garmin, Ainley Kennels & Fabrication, and Avery. We sincerely thank Purina for their continued support of field trial events and this memorable weekend.

We missed Dave Fletcher this year and other hall of famers including Diana & Gary Kubitz who have been devoted workers for his hall of fame and museum since its creation.

### **Patron Memorial Plaque for Thomas Nealan Thomas Jr.**

A Patron Memorial Plaque was presented to Linda Thomas, Tommy's mother, during the afternoon Brittany ceremonies. Linda was present with Mike Poehler, Bob Burchett and Ken Windom by her side.

Tommy loved the sport of field trialing. In 1994, he got his first Brittany, Blaze, a companion and hunting dog. He and his mother joined the LaSalle Brittany Club and he immersed himself in the world of dog shows and field trials.

Tommy only knew friends he hadn't met yet, was always positive in nature and smiling, graciously lending others a horse or his time. These traits led to an area of his life where he truly excelled – scouting for friends or strangers alike; always making a good team better. Tommy judged Brittany trials and championships for multiple breeds, traveling to field trials in 20 states, expanding his friend base.

He was a patron and benefactor to the sport through his Double T Farms property in Thayer, IA, popularly known as The Bird Dog Ranch. He worked hard developing these ground specifically for the sport of field trialing and hosted numerous weekend trials, hunt tests, Championships and Classics over the years. The Field Trial Community will long remember his contributions to the sport along with the warmth and kindness shown to everyone he met over his short 35 years.

### **Mary Crawford, Inductee**

Mary has been dedicated to the Brittany, Brittany clubs and field trialing for almost 40 years and the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame for over 15 years.

Mary and Jim joined the Texas Coastal Brittany Club in 1983 after purchasing a Brittany. Together they have competed in field trials over 36 years. Mary has served as field trial secretary and show chairman for the regional club for 25 years and the national championships for 5 years. She has reported championships and is an AKC field trial judge. Mary and Jim are the longest serving active members in their regional club and along with other trialers have personally leased ranches for 22 years for their club

trials. Over the past 30 years, they have competed in the national all age and gun dog championships. Mary served on the national show committee and been on the Judges' Education Committee since 2008.

Since 1986, J&M Brittanys has bred and/or owned 14 dual champions, 6 AF CH, 9 R-U AF CH, 1 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 2004 ABC National AAA Championship and many show champions. Mary handled 5 of their Brittanys in the field winning with 4 of them. Mary and Jim have encouraged newcomers by loaning horses, referring owners to their field trainer and giving information about the sport.

Mary acknowledged several people who made their success possible especially Peter Thuman who has field trained their dogs over the past 30 years and Willo Barfield who handled their dogs in the show ring for the past 35 years.

Mary became the secretary of this hall of fame in 2011 upon the retirement of Rheta Cartmell. She assists with nomination preparations for the election committee members for voting, works with the Chairman regarding vote totals, contracts with the hotel for rooms and prepares inductee bios for the induction booklet. She is also a Bird Dog Foundation Director.

After the new wing was completed at the Bird Dog Museum in 2012, Mary has worked tirelessly in our Brittany museum, expanding the display of portraits of people and dogs, researching and preparing binders with information about our early importers and dogs and Brittany history. Her pride is preserving the history of the Brittany and our museum.

### **Two Life Patron Awards**

Rich Murphy from the So. New England Brittany Club attended with Bob Fleury and Henry Wierzbicki. Rich was president of the John E. Flaherty Field Trial Club Association for 12 years. These two awards were for New England bird dog people - Dick Frawley, a Vizsla field trialer and president of the association and Sue DeSilver, a long time field trialer, breeder of dual champion Gordon Setters and a long time delegate of the association.



Ken Windom, Bob Burchett, Linda Thomas with plaque, Mike Poehler



Peter Thuman, Jim Crawford, Inductee Mary Crawford, Rick Smith



Group Photo



4 Hall of Famers!

Mary Karbiner, Mary Crawford, Mary Jo Trimble, Judy Graves



Bob Fleury, Rich Murphy with plaque, Delmar Smith, Henry Wierzbicki with plaque, Mary Crawford, Rick Smith