



National Bird Dog Museum Early Autumn 2025 Newsletter



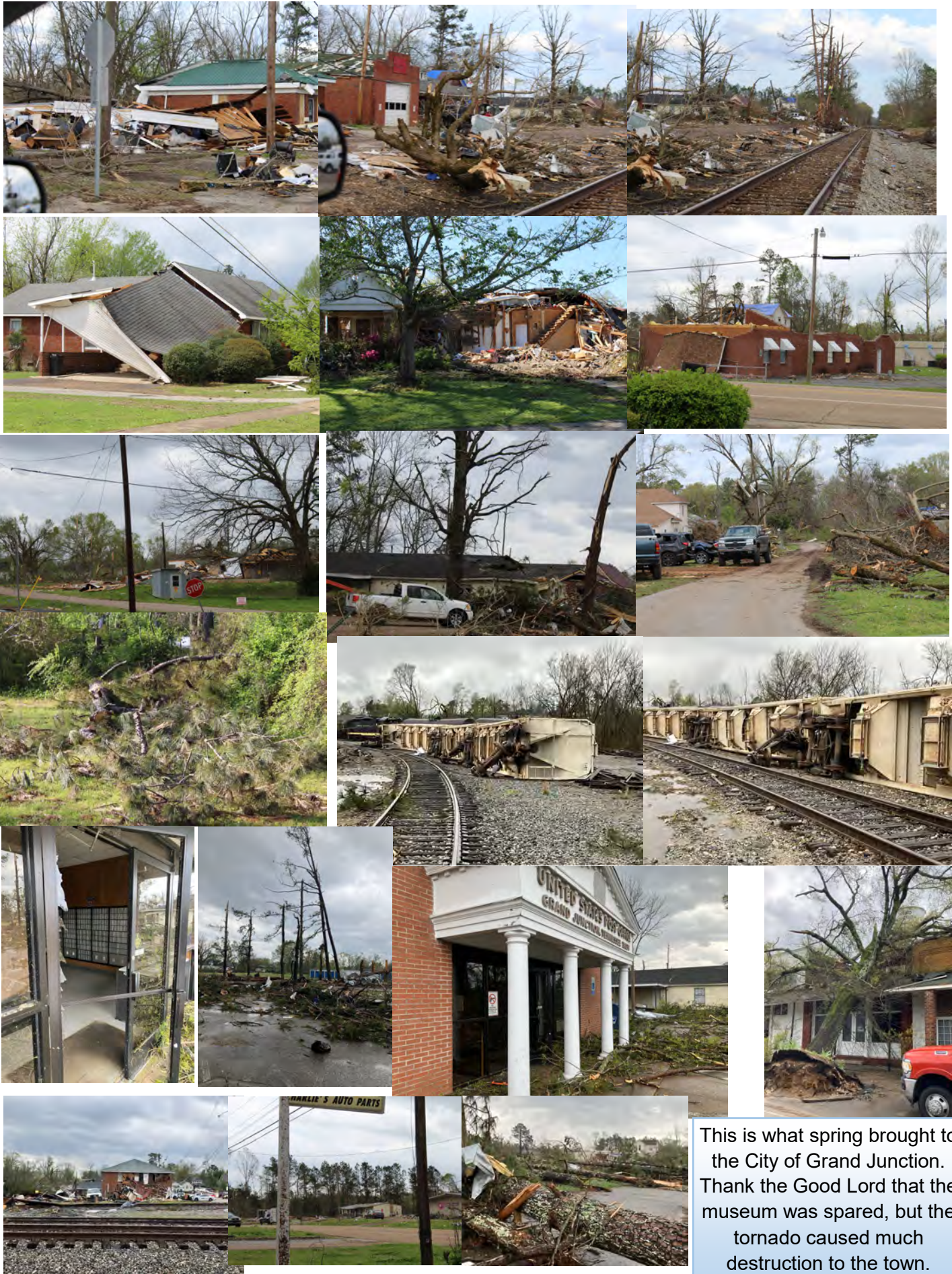
Spring and summer has come and gone. Fall is now upon us. In Grand Junction, Tennessee, spring did not arrive quietly. We were hit hard with a violent tornado on April 3. The National Bird Dog Museum was spared other than some minor roof damage, trees down on the fence, and a significant amount of debris on the grounds. The tornado's path took it straight through the heart of the town of Grand Junction and the town was pretty much destroyed. Several friends lost their lives just down the road from the museum and many more lost their homes. It will be a long road to recovery for the town. Almost every building—including homes—within the city limits of Grand Junction received some degree of damage. The city hall, fire department, a church, the railroad office, and several other building were completely destroyed. A large swath of the town was also stripped of vegetation. The town, the museum included, was without electricity, water, or internet service for quite a while after the storm. Even cell phone service was down for a few days. Tree cleanup and roof repair is still ongoing and will continue for quite some time. The tornado swept through the town over the course of about three minutes. I have shared some pictures of the devastation on the next page. This really makes you realize what is really important in life and how precious life is. Your home, your possessions—the things you have spent your lifetime building—can all be gone so fast, but most material things can be replaced. Life cannot be replaced, so we must cherish our families and friends and always be thankful for the time we have with them. The perseverance of some in Grand Junction whose lives have been forever changed has been remarkable and has been an inspiration for me personally. Their challenges moving forward will be many, but the community has really pulled together. The number of volunteers—some coming from far away in other states—offering their time and labor to help out the town has been unbelievable and heartwarming to see. Please remember to keep the victims who lost family or everything they owned in your thoughts and prayers—not just here, but other places in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Oklahoma that were effected by the same devastating storm system. Please also remember the folks involved in the tragedy in Texas.

Even through all this going on in town, we have remained pretty busy here at the museum. We have had our annual Bird Dog Foundation Art Contest for K-12 students throughout West Tennessee and North Mississippi. The participation this year was excellent and we had many outstanding entries. On page three you can enjoy a small selection of the winners' artwork and can see how talented these young student artists are. The awards ceremony for the contest was held on April 12. The annual Bird Dog Foundation Senior Essay Contest winners have also been chosen and the scholarships awarded. Details of the winners are on page five. We have also had the privilege of hosting the Mid-South & Region 6 meeting and awards ceremony on May 17 and the NBHA banquet on July 26. We look forward to hosting these events and enjoy seeing all the folks for both events.

I hope that your autumn is full of blessings. Enjoy the newsletter. I am grateful for each one of you and your support.

Tonya Brotherton, Executive Director





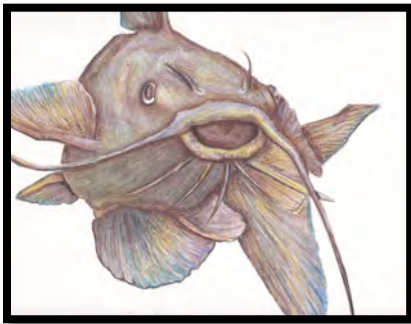
This is what spring brought to the City of Grand Junction. Thank the Good Lord that the museum was spared, but the tornado caused much destruction to the town.



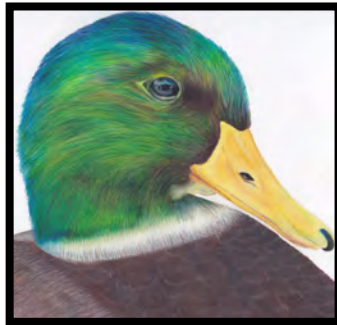
This is just a few of
our winning artists.
Amazing talent on
display here.



Chloe Bodiford
12th Grade



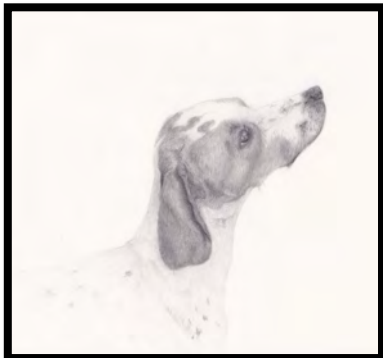
Alyssa Lilienthal
12th Grade



Ariana Clendaniel
12th Grade



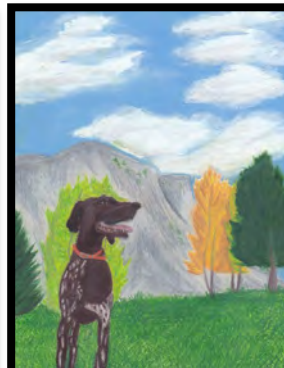
Brigid Plunk
11th Grade



Clara Younger
11th Grade



Walker Kennedy
11th Grade



Penn Holley
8th Grade



Abigail Presley
9th Grade



Chelsea Franco
8th Grade



Sophie Kate Hampton
8th Grade



Payton Reeves
7th Grade



Dharma Opazo
8th Grade



**2025 Annual Senior
Essay Contest
Winners
Education News**



Heloyse Leonard-Saillant
Ocean Springs, MS
1st Place Winner
Will be attending
Louisiana State University



William Walker Tate
Tupelo, MS
2nd Place Winner
Will be attending
Mississippi State
University



Madison Gates
Corinth, MS
3rd Place Winner
Will be attending the University
of North Alabama



President's Council

Andy & Deb Agnew

Andy & Deb Agnew live on a farm in Blaine, Tennessee, just outside of Knoxville in beautiful East Tennessee. Andy is the proud and only son of Irish immigrant parents. Deb is from Wichita, Kansas and attended college at the University of Tennessee. She stayed in Tennessee after she graduated. Deb is a Juvenile (Type 1) Diabetic and a cancer survivor. She has been on insulin for 60 years and lost her stomach to cancer some years ago.

Andy & Deb have supported the Bird Dog Foundation and the Hall of Fame since its beginning, initially as life members and in more recent years as annual President's Council members. They have been involved in Amateur Field Trials for over 40 years—first with German Shorthair Pointers in walking and NBHA trials. They were involved from the beginning of the GSP Club of Atlanta and participated for many years.

In 1986, they went to the UK to visit relatives and one of Andy's cousins was upset that they did not have an Irish Setter. They promised they would get one when they got home. Soon after, they contacted Stan ZZZ and got their first Red Setter pup. Over the ensuing years, they competed in ISCA and Red Setter events. They have two ISCA Field Champions.

Andy chaired the Red Setter Futurity as Secretary for about 10 years and more recently served as Treasurer of the Red Setter Foundation.

In 2017, Andy & Deb unexpectedly had the opportunity to become owners of a young English Pointer that was beginning to compete on the major All-Age circuit. They have had their most enjoyable field trial experiences owning a dog competing at this level. Coldwater Odyssey "Dan" won the Mississippi Championship one year and had many runner up placements. This year, at 10 years old, he ran in the National Championship at the Ames Plantation in Grand Junction, Tn in the 12th brace. Unfortunately, his life-long trainer, Weldon Bennett, was injured previously in a horse accident and was unable to handle him. Dan had a very competitive first hour, but he was picked up after the first hour because of injury to his feet, which were sore and bleeding due to the frozen, icy ground. Andy & Deb will let Dan remain with Mr. Bennett in his retirement.



WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL?

The President's Council members include some of the National Bird Dog Museum's most generous supporters. Members make an annual donation of \$1000.00 or more. These funds are placed in a special account and are used at the discretion of the Board of the Directors for various projects supporting the Bird Dog Foundation. I would like to say thank you on behalf of the Board of Directors and myself to all of those who renewed their President's Council membership so far this year. Their names are placed on a plate on a plaque as you enter the museum. I invite anyone interested to please join. You can contact me by email at cottonquaildog@att.net or call 731-764-2058 for more information about becoming a member.

2025 PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEMBERS

Andy & Deb Agnew

Hob & Lisa Brown

Dr. Davey Deal

Alvin Hatcher

Suzie Steed

Recent Events



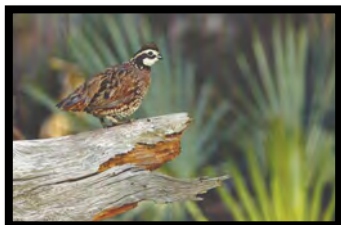
Mid-South Association Meeting in progress on May 17, 2025



Region 6 AFTCA Meeting in progress on May 17, 2025



Miller's Authentic Version
2024-2025 Region 6 Shooting
Dog of the Year
Owned by Allen Linder & Jack
Miller and handled by Fran Miller



Springer Spaniel Banquet
February 6, 2025 (above and
below)



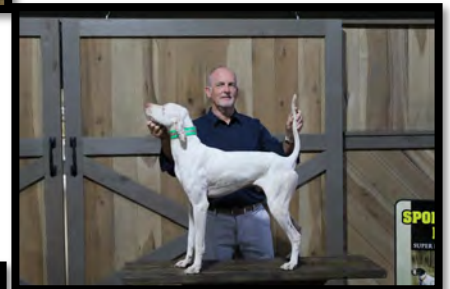
Rebel Gold
2024-2025 Region 6 & Mid-
South All-Age Dog of the Year
Owned & handled by David
Williams



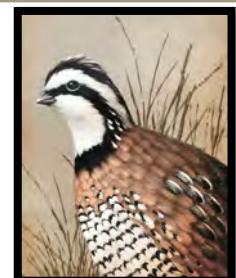
Mojo Rising
2024-2025 Mid-South Shooting
Dog of the Year
Owned by Jeremy & Tammy
Taylor and handled by Jeremy
Taylor



Part of the cooking
crew at the fish fry
that the Museum
held at Bryan Hall at
the Ames Plantation
on Feb. 23, 2025.
We had a great
crowd. (below)



Arkansas Headliner
2024-2025 Region 6 & Mid-
South Derby Dog of the Year
Owned and handled by Mike
Lemons



Recent Visitors



Paul, Sally & David Grey visiting from New Zealand May 18, 2025



Adrian, Telita & Paul Jackson visiting from Texas May 20, 2025



Rex Humston & Smooch brought this trophy to donate on Feb. 25. It is the British Perpetual Championship Trophy presented to the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Assoc. and is 100 years old.

More Recent Events

NBHA Banquet and Awards

We were pleased to have the NBHA banquet and awards ceremony here again this year. We always enjoy this event so much. The NBHA guys are always helping me out and encouraging me. The banquet was held on July 26, 2025. We had a great crowd and had lots of fun.



Myah Landolina and Meadow Thornton
NBHA Youth Handlers of the Year
Pictured with Tim Penn and Ken Sauer



Jack Glover
NBHA Amateur Handler of the Year
pictured with Tim and Ken



More pictures of the awards presentations.





Bill & Will McDonald from New York came by on August 20. Mr. Bill has cancer and visiting the museum was on his bucket list.



David Johnson with his wife Janie and daughter Regina came by to visit on August 23. He is in the Pointer/Setter Hall of Fame.



Hall of Fame Induction
Ceremonies will be
February 7, 2026

FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCEMENT

This announcement was made by the United Kennel Club.

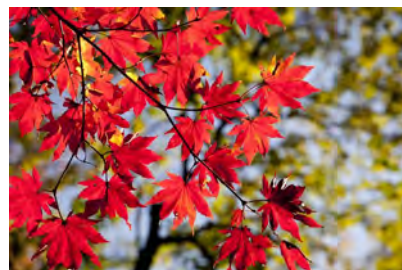
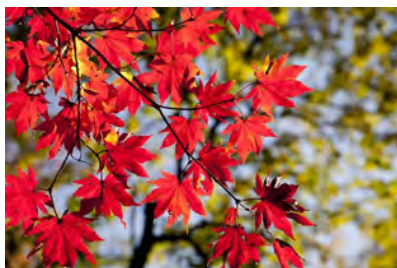
For over 70 years, the Field Trial Hall of Fame has stood as a proud tribute to the dogs and individuals whose contributions have shaped our sport's excellence. As we reflect on this enduring history, we recognize the importance of ensuring that the Hall of Fame continues to reflect the evolving values and standards of our field. With that in mind and with the utmost respect for those honored and those who support the tradition, we will be undertaking a thoughtful review of the Hall of Fame's criteria and methods.

TO ALLOW TIME FOR THIS IMPORTANT WORK, WE ARE SUSPENDING THIS YEAR'S HALL OF FAME NOMINATION AND ELECTION CYCLE.

THIS IS ONLY FOR THE POINTER/SETTER HALL OF FAME.

JUST TO CONFIRM THE HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS FOR ALL OTHER BREEDS WILL PROCEED AS USUAL. THE CANCELATION IS ONLY FOR THE POINTER/SETTER BREEDS HALL OF FAME. WE ALSO WILL HAVE TWO NEW BREEDS PARTICIPATING THIS YEAR—THE GORDON SETTERS AND THE VIZSLAS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE.

Legacy



Robert "Bob" Holcomb, started his contributions to the German Shorthair Pointer world while serving in the US Army during World War II and in the occupation forces in Germany after VE Day. After graduating high school in Poulsbo, Washington, Bob was accepted to study in the veterinary school at Washington State University, but choose to volunteer for service in the US Army. He was sent to Europe in October 1944. After recovering from a rifle fire combat wound, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart, he was assigned to the Army Veterinary Service. He spent the remainder of his first tour in Germany supporting veterinary care and treatment of horses, mules and dogs from both US forces and local German residents. His final duty was caring for and treatment of rescued blooded German horses that were transported to the US, including some of the legendary Lipizzaner stallions rescued in the infamous "Operation Cowboy". During the occupation, Bob travelled all over Germany with the Veterinary Service, allowing him access to German estates and hunting clubs. This provided him with direct contact with functioning kennels with active GSP dog trainers. The hunting skills of the German Shorthair Pointers and their versatility impressed Holcomb. This impression of the value and importance of the GSP breed remained with Bob for the rest of his life.

While traveling with the Veterinary Service, Bob met his future wife, Oattie, and became close friends with her and her family. After his discharge from the Army, Bob returned to the US and attended the WSU Veterinary School for a few months, but missed army life and re-enlisted in the spring of 1947. Bob married Oattie and was stationed at Fort Ord in central California. It was at this time that Bob became an important developer of the GSP breed for the early GSP field trial competitions. He recognized the extraordinary qualities of Grief vom Hundscheimerkogle and bred his Betina v Schwarenberg to Grief. He kept a pup, Yunga von Hundscheimerkogle for his own training and field trial competition. Yunga became Bob's first field trial champion. During the early 1950s, Bob's US Army connections were instrumental in arranging the importation of dozens of GSPs to the US, including for Don Miner of Von Thalberg's Kennel and for Ralph Parks, the first president of the German Shorthair Pointer Club of America. Bob re-upped with the Army in the late 1950s and returned to Germany with the Veterinary Service. During his time in Germany, he increased his involvement with GSPs, becoming friends with Ernst Bleckmann, owner of the original von dem Radbach kennel. Bob stayed at the kennel estate and trained with the German trainers. His abilities were respected enough that he was accepted into the prestigious Klub Deutsch Kurzhaar. He was one of very few Americans that was ever asked to judge field trials in Germany.

Bob returned to the US in the early 1960s and began his own kennel in Auburn, Washington, which he called Radbach Kennels. He imported several of Bleckmann's Radbachs which formed the foundation of his kennel. Bob officially became a professional trainer at this time and was a regular on the Northwest field trial circuit. He was the man to beat in GSP trials for a couple of decades. Bob trained and handled more than 100 dogs to field trial championship titles. His dogs dominated the Northwest Field Trial Council's "Dog of the Year" awards in the 1960s and 1970s. The current NFTC's Dog of the Year trophy is given annually as a memorial to Bob's field trial accomplishments. Throughout his career, Bob supported local GSP clubs and helped to start clubs in Washington and California. The GSP breed would not be what it is today without Bob Holcomb.

Legacy



(ABOVE) Dr. W.H. McCall as a young boy and then in 1987 with one of his dogs. It seems his expression did not change much!

This story appeared in American Field in 1965. It was written by M.G. Ramsey.

I was talking to a group of field trailers near the barn in Hoffman, N.C. I had arrived at the grounds pulling a "homemade" single horse trailer with an old 1942 Plymouth and my whole string of hopefuls which consisted of one Fast Delivery pointer puppy. All of sudden coming down the sand road was the finest outfit I'd ever seen. I remember a brand new Cadillac pulling a factory built two horse trailer, and when the driver stepped out, there stood what I had always dreamed was Mr. Field Trialer himself. He was a tall, handsome, outdoorsy sort of fellow, dressed in whipcord riding britches, with leather boots up to his knees, a safari jacket and topped off with a white Stetson. He looked like someone you would see on a safari. I found out later that was where he was going.

I said out loud, "Who the heck is that?" I believe it was my old field trial buddy, Buford "Red" Tatum, who said "that's Dr. W.H. McCall from Asheville, North Carolina, and he has come here to win the trial." And he did with Paul Walker piloting one of his winners. Shortly after I met Doc, I found out he not only looked like a field trailer, he was (and is) one, clean to the bone. During the last 25 years I found out that Doc has had dogs since he was a little boy. All kinds of dogs, bird dogs, hound, beagles and Labrador retrievers. He loves to hunt, and fish, and still does at 76. He owned "Ole John," The Haberdasher, and many other field trial winners. The Haberdasher established an outstanding bloodline. Dr. McCall has a long list of contributions, physical, mental and financial to the field trial sport.

New Museum Exhibit



(LEFT) This very handsome sculpture by Robert Wehle arrived just before the newsletter was completed. It is the Elhew Jungle Trophy which was award to the New York State Bird Dog Association Dog of the Year starting in 1958. Dr. Thomas Flanagan's Hall of Fame Setter Grouse Ridge Will retired this trophy in 1971 after winning it three years in a row. It is a quality piece that will take a place of honor in the museum.

THE WAYS TO SUPPORT THE MUSEUM

----- (\$30.00) Youth Supporter (under 18)

----- (\$60.00) Annual Membership

You receive a small appreciation gift and a discount in the gift shop.

----- (\$500.00) Life Membership

You receive an appreciation gift, tax letter and a discount in the gift shop.

----- (\$1000.00) President's Council

You receive a certificate, gift, your name on a special plaque, and discounts in the gift shop.

----- (\$1200.00) Life Patron or Patron Memorial Plaque

You will have a plaque hanging in the museum. (This does not mean you are in the Hall of Fame.)

----- (\$2000.00) Walk of Champion Dog Markers

You receive a granite stone to be place along the walkway in front of the museum.

----- (\$350.00) Memorial Wall Plaque

You receive a bronze plaque to be placed on the outdoor memorial wall.

----- General Fund (in any amount you choose)

This is for the day-to-day expenses of the National Bird Dog Museum and Field Trial Hall of Fame, helping with repairs and upkeep. Donations can be made in the honor of or in memory of someone.

You may also choose to support the museum in your will.

Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name:-----

Address:-----

City:-----

State _____ Zip _____ Phone:-----

E-mail (to receive newsletter)-----

Mailing address is P.O. Box 774 Grand Junction, TN 38039

Payment enclosed \$-----

Or charge my: __American Express __Discover __MasterCard __Visa

Card #----- Code:-----

Expiration Date:-----





Memorials and Honorariums

IN HONOR

The National Bird Dog Museum has received donations in honor of the following:

Tonya Brotherton

Dale Bush

Mark Medford

MEMORIALS

The National Bird Dog Museum has received donations in memory of the following:

Charles Beeler

Marcy Beveridge

Dewitt Boise

Gene Casale

Eileen Cowan

Dean Crabbs

Richard Dallesasse

Don Fidler

Esther Flanagan

Richard Frawley

John Rex Gates

Rowan Greer

Charlie Hays

Lyle Johnson

Richard H. Johnson

Jackie Mertens

Valerie Miller

Roger Stowell

Ray Trimble

Dr. John Webb

2025 NATIONAL BIRD DOG MUSEUM GUN GIVEAWAY



TICKETS ARE 5 FOR \$100.00 OR \$25.00 EACH. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A TICKET PLEASE GIVE US A CALL AT 731-764-2058. WE CAN DO THIS WITH CREDIT CARD OVER THE PHONE OR YOU CAN SEND IN A CHECK WITH A NOTE YOU WANT TO PURCHASE TICKETS. THIS WOULD BE GREAT FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS, BIRTHDAYS AND OTHER OCCASIONS!

The National Bird Dog Museum 2025 Annual Gun Giveaway contest has begun! This year we have upped the ante with a beautiful Rizzini Artemis 20-gauge over and under with 29" barrels. This is a very nice gun. This is one you will love to own. We hope that you will support this fundraiser event. The picture to the left is representative of this shotgun that has an MSRP of over \$5000.



YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN!

The drawing will be held on the weekend of the 2026 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies in February.

We appreciate all of you who participated last year and also in this year's Gold Coin Fundraiser.





Spring

Fundraiser

Gold Coin Giveaway

**\$50.00 American Eagle
Gold Coin
1 oz. Fine Gold
Currently valued at
around \$3400.00**

The National Bird Dog Museum is giving away a \$50.00 face value American Eagle gold coin. The drawing will be held at the 2026 Hall of Fame Inductions in February.

You do not have to be present to win.

We will fill out the ticket stub with your name, phone number and email address for you if you will provide us with that information when you call to place your order.

The tickets are \$50.00 each, you are not limited to one, you may purchase as many as you see fit.

You can send us check and give us a note telling us it is for the Gold Coin ticket.

Make Checks payable to:

Bird Dog Foundation

Or call with credit card 731-764-2058.

Coin pictured at top is a representative and the years differ.

Address: National Bird Dog Museum, 505 Hwy. 57 W. Grand Junction, TN 38039

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



There is nothing more welcome after the summer heat than the first cool breezes of autumn. Here in West Tennessee, we always say if you don't like the weather, just wait a minute. We may be weeks away from our first frosty morning, but I can already feel the temperature starting to drop. Autumn is my favorite time of year and to me is always special and stunningly beautiful. The season is a wonderful metaphor for life—it can change in the blink of an eye. The little things do make a difference just like in our lives. A simple smile, a kind word, or a gentle act of kindness can make a huge difference in someone's life, just like a few degrees of temperature can produce the myriad kaleidoscope of fall colors. This thought always brings me hope.

Autumn is the time of year in which I like to slow down and take a breath, or at least try to. I feel that in our modern times, we are always speeding through life. We live in a society that sacrifices much on the altar of convenience and we stress over social media, where people depict their lives as perfect even when that is far from the truth. We are left wondering if we measure up and exhaust ourselves trying to keep up. We are always in a hurry because we believe that this will allow us more time for relaxation and respite. Yet, somehow we still live in a constant state of weariness and never seem to find the rest or peace we are seeking. Many of us are stressed and impatient. It affects our attitude and our interactions with others, especially the ones we love. This fall, give yourself a break from the unnecessary distractions of life. Don't expect more out of yourself than is possible. Find something that you love to do and take the time to do it. For me, this is just being outdoors, taking in the season's beauty. Sometimes I sit outside just listening to the birds and watching the multi-colored leaves rustle in the breeze. Other times I enjoy riding my four-wheeler around my family's farm. This is my stress relief. Wherever you find your respite—fishing, hiking, or even in the pages of a book—remember that there is serenity in the gentle quiet moments. The best days are not always the most exciting, but those that are ordinary, bringing simple joys and are spent with the people we love.

I wish you a fall season filled with ordinary, joyful and peaceful days. Remember—be still, breath deep, be grateful for all you have in your life, count your blessings, and know you are unique. Just be the unique you.

Happy Fall Y'all. God bless you all this season.

Tonya Brotherton, Executive Director

