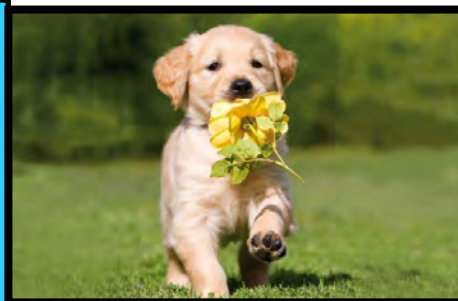


National Bird Dog Museum

2026

Summer Newsletter



Hello everyone! Welcome to the National Bird Dog Museum summer newsletter. I hope you enjoy it! I am still getting a little nervous during the spring season here in Grand Junction after the tornado that hit last year in April. We have had a lot of rain this year and several severe thunderstorms, but thankfully spring passed with no tornados in the area. Following the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies in February, we have remained busy here at the museum with visitors coming from as far away as Japan and several events, including a fish fry at the Ames Plantation during the National Championship Field Trials, the Awards Ceremony for our annual Student Art Contest, the Region 6 AFTCA & Mid-South Field Trial Association Meeting, and the American Bird Hunters meeting. We have also had our two annual educational programs, the Student Art Contest for area schools and the Bird Dog Foundation Senior Scholarship Essay Contest. Participation in both this year was outstanding, especially in the essay contest. We had many very talented artists and writers this year from all over the Mid-South area, for more information check out pages 4 and 5. Things aren't going to slow down any time soon at the museum, as vacationers from all over the country stop in for a visit and we have events scheduled throughout June and July.

Summer has arrived and with it many people are inspired to travel and explore what this great country has to offer. Many are searching for a unique experience and the National Bird Dog Museum definitely qualifies. If you are passing through the area this summer, be sure to stop by to visit a museum that is truly the only one of its kind in the world.

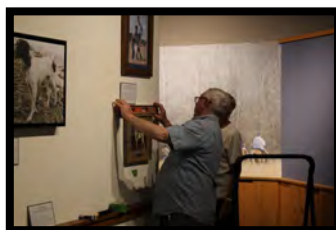
We should all take the time to do more of what makes us happy. Life is fundamentally simple, but for some reason we insist on making it complicated. Life is short. Make the best of it. If you have always wanted to visit, don't put it off any longer. Live life one smile at a time.

Tonya Brotherton

Executive Director

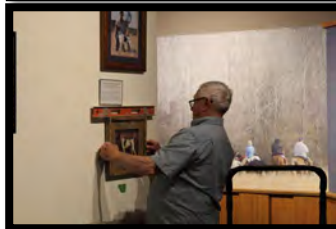


Spring Ending on a Good Note



(LEFT) Mike and Janet Aldrich working on hanging pictures in the GSP Hall of Fame.

Mike making sure it is level on May 30, 2026



(ABOVE) Gene Mosley relaxing and saying he is glad that the project is done.

(RIGHT) Gene Mosley and his friend Eric from Texas working in the GSP Hall of Fame and delivering an old desk for the section



Scenes that started out our February 2026



This is how our February events started out. One day prior to the Hall of Fame Inductions, all this ice was here to welcome our attendees.

Region 6 AFTCA & Mid-South Field Trial Assoc. Meeting and Awards May 16, 2026



**Dr. Fred & Rita Corder
pictured with 2025-2026
Region 6 All-Age Dog of the
Year—Game Star**



**Lance Servias receiving the
award for 2025-2026 Mid-
South Shooting Dog of the
Year—Southern Shadow Story.
She unexpectedly passed
away recently.**



**Kent Walker pictured with his
family receiving the Sportsman
of the Year Award**



**Brad Kennedy receiving
his Life Patron Plaque**

A few crowd pictures



Some of our most recent visitors



**German Shorthair Pointer
Meeting and Luncheon
June 27**

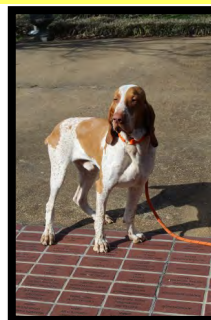
**NBHA Banquet and Awards
Program
July 25**



**Chiharu Niwa and Norco
Yamazaki from Japan
February 2026**



**Lyle Underwood
with Rick Burgess
from Elberta, AL**



**Boone—he is a
Brocco Italiano
from Colorado**



Recent Events



**The cooks for the fish fry we
had in February 2026**



**The assistants Chad
Kimzey and Rex Brotherton**

**Fish Fry held at
Bryan Hall on
Ames Plantation
February 2026**



**Anniston & Olivia
Russell having fun
& making memories
at the National
Championship in
February 2026**

**Owner Dr.
Fred Corder
with 2026
National
Champion
Game Surge at
the Ames
Plantation**



American Bird Hunters Association

The museum had the honor of hosting the American Bird Hunters Association Hall of Fame inductions and awards banquet here on June 13. This was the first time that the ABHA has held an event here and they were a joy. They were extremely helpful. I made some new friends and visited with some old ones. I was so glad they let us be a part of this event. Thanks so much for being a great group! I enjoyed having you here! Here are a few photos of the event.



Newly elected Hall of Fame members to the ABHA. Left to right Earl Elkins, Mike Griffin, Eddy Smith, Ronnie Rogers and John Gaines.



Ben Weddington receiving his award for ABHA Sportsman of the Year. His daughter was being a bit shy. Roger Rogers making the presentation.



This is a group shot of part of the crowd. The attendance was great and everyone here had a good time!



The Gold Coin Giveaway is currently underway. If you would like to purchase tickets and do not receive them in the mail, please call us at 731-764-2058. The tickets are \$50.00 each. We can take care of you over the phone with a credit card or we can send your tickets in the mail so you can return with a check. Thanks for your support!



ART CONTEST



McNairy Central High School winners and their teacher Melanie Miller



Fayette Academy winners and their teacher Laura Walker



Corinth Middle & High School winners (teachers not present)

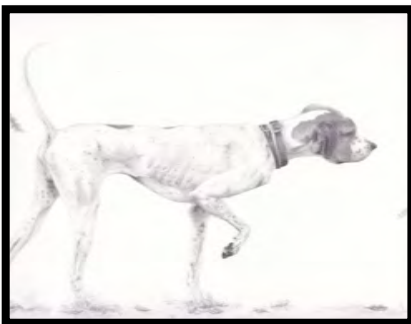


Scenes from refreshment time after the awards ceremony



8th Grade
Joshua Presley

Take a look at some of the art winners amazing work



Bird Dog Foundation

Senior Scholarship Essay Contest Winners



Nash McCrary
Columbus, MS
1st Place

The Essay Contest was unusual this year. The judge had a particularly hard time choosing the winners because we had more entries than usual and also had more worthy participants. Therefore we have a three-way tie for third place, which has only happened once before in 2023. We are very pleased with the participation. Keep up the good work!



Isabelle Lunsford
White Hall, AR
2nd Place



Rylan Griggs
Elkton, KY
Tied 3rd Place



Andrew LeGoff
Corinth, MS
Tied 3rd Place



Samantha Hardison
Germantown, TN
Tied 3rd Place



Memorials And Honorariums

IN HONOR

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

Clay Brotherton

Tonya Brotherton

Dale Bush

Keith Richardson



MEMORIALS

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

George David Barrow

Eileen Cowan

John McNeely Dubose

Esther Flanagan

John Rex Gates

Hal Gierman

Charlie Hays

Mary Howley

Richard Johnson

Francis Keenan

Hank McNeil

Tim Mumford

Gary Peschel

Norris Sims

David Williams

DEATHS IN THE FIELD TRIAL FAMILY

These are the ones we are aware of. If we are not informed, then we cannot let others know.



David Earl Williams
Beech Bluff, TN—Age 72

David grew up in a farming family, so he had a passion for the outdoors at an early age. Quail hunting around his home later led to what would become his love for the sport of horseback field trials. He gave much time, effort, and money for the betterment of field trials. He enjoyed being involved in his family's farming operation. He was also involved with the Region 6 Mid-South Association.



Joe "JT" Thompson
Mason, TN— Age 78

Joe was a fixture at the Ames Plantation during the Nationals. Above he is pictured with his big smile and wave at the Nationals on February 14, 2023. He is on top of a fine horse. Joe really knew and loved his horses. He was a member of the Golden Riders Club. Joe believed that time spent with a horse was time well spent. We will truly miss his smile and "Good Morning!" greetings at the Nationals.



Lyle H. Hansen
Billings, MT—Age 87

The Call of the Wild West was irresistible to Lyle, so he raised his family in the Billings area while working as a landman in the oil and gas industry. In his retirement years, he was able to indulge in his true passions of keeping horses and dogs and participating in field trials all over North America.



Denise Chenoweth
Kevil, KY—Age 71

Denise is pictured with her family in the front row on the right. She dedicated her life to faith, family and service to others. She was a registered nurse for 34 years. Deeply faithful and devoted to Jesus, she was known for putting others first. She was an avid gardener, devoted horsewoman, and tough cowgirl. Denise cherished her Vizslas. Her and Ron had a dog inducted into the Hall of Fame this year on February 7, 2026. She was so proud.

DEATHS IN THE FIELD TRIAL FAMILY (CONTINUED)



Ray Warren

Hopkinsville, KY—Age 72

Ray was born in Fort Benning, Georgia. Ray spent many years in the automotive industry before turning his lifelong passion for dogs into a career. In 1997 he became a professional dog trainer and founded Warren Kennels, a venture that allowed him to travel throughout the United States doing what he loved most. Dog training brought him great fulfillment and led him and his wife to Chinquapin Farm near Lake City, Florida, where they lived and worked for many years. He built many lasting friendships and earned the respect of his fellow trainers. After retiring from dog training in 2023, he returned home to Hopkinsville, Kentucky. He was a faithful member of Second Baptist Church in Hopkinsville.



Pat T. Bryan

Moscow, TN—Age 78

Pat was the wife of Charlie Frank Bryan. Pat has been a fixture at the National Championship Field Trials for many years, dating back to the times with her deceased first husband Wayne Tate. Pat was employed by the Bank of Fayette County for many years, starting in 1979 until her retirement. She loved the simple joys in life and the things that made every day precious. Pat loved the water, motorcycles and horses. She was known as an adventurous and free spirited soul. She loved her grandchildren and they brought her much happiness.



James "Jim" Pesnell

Signal Mountain, TN — Age 86

Jim is the father of Piper Huffman of Michigan City, MS. Piper is the secretary of the AFTCA and her husband is Larry Huffman of Whippoorwill Kennels.

Our prayers and thoughts are with each of the families of these folks. The Bird Dog Museum staff expresses our condolences. If you have any news of other deaths you would like for us to share with our readers please email the information to me at cottonquaildog@att.net



Sherry Walker

Collierville, TN—Age 67

Sherry was the wife of Kent Walker. Sherry passed due to complications from a recent heart surgery. She had two sons, both married, and she had five beloved grandchildren. Kent is active in Region 6 Mid-South AFTCA.



2026 NATIONAL BIRD DOG MUSEUM GUN GIVEAWAY



The National Bird Dog Museum is proud to announce the beginning of our annual gun giveaway! This year we will be giving away a Caesar Guerini Woodlander chambered in 12-gauge with 28 inch barrels. The Woodlander is designed specifically as an upland game gun and features a case hardened action embellished with a single gold ruffed grouse and Turkish walnut furniture with a traditional oil finish. The lightweight barrels incorporate solid mid ribs to keep out debris. The shotgun comes in a velvet-lined lockable hard case and includes five precision flush chokes (CYL, IC, M, IM, F). The Woodlander is perfectly balanced, lightweight (6 lbs. 14 oz. on average), and responsive. The photos are representative of the Woodlander. The drawing for this beautiful shotgun will be held on the weekend of the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies in February 2027. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets are \$25 each or \$100 for five. We are currently mailing out tickets, so if you receive tickets every year, be on the lookout for them. If you have not received tickets in the mail before, but would like to participate contact us by email at cottonquaildog@att.net or by phone at 731-764-2058.



*We hope that you will support
the National Bird Dog
Museum with this fundraiser.*

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 discount in gift shop.

____(\$1000.00) President's Council

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

____(\$2000.00) Walk of Champion Dog Markers

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

____General Fund (this can be 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 also be made in memory or honor 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) _____

Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Or charge my: _____ American Express _____ Discover _____ Mastercard _____ Visa

Card # _____

Expiration date: _____ Code: _____



LIVING LEGEND

Collier Smith



Collier was born in Roanoke, Virginia in 1946. His father and mother moved to Hatchechubbe, Alabama, that year and Collier grew up there. His mother Evelyn, was from Bromhead, Saskatchewan and each summer the family returned to Canada. He graduated from Huntingdon College in Montgomery, AL in 1968. That fall he took over the field trial string after his father Herman suffered a horse accident in Frobisher, Saskatchewan. His first trial was the American Field Quail Futurity at Crab Orchard in Illinois, where he won first and third. The following October, Collier and Suzanne Beckman were married. They eventually had two children, Reid and Marietta. A short honeymoon and two field trials later Collier was called to active duty in the U.S. military and missed the rest of the field trial season.

Returning to the major circuit in 1971, Collier won his first championship, the United States title, at Albany, GA with Mr. Thor. He would win the United States titles two more times—in 1974 with White Knight's Button and 1982 with Native Tango. Both dogs, coincidentally, also won the Purina Award for Collier. Collier has won virtually every major stake in the United States. He won the National Championship in 1984 with Native Tango, the same year she won the Purina Award. The spring of 1983 was a banner season for Collier, with wins in four of the five Derby Championships with Bozeann's Mosley. Bozeann's Mosley was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1997.

Collier's connection to the Field Trial Hall of Fame dates back to 1971, when his father Herman Smith was elected. It continued through 1976 with Mr. Thor being honored, then 1984 with the election of White Knight's Button, and finally in 1996 with Native Tango. Collier himself was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2015. Collier was also part of the Living Legends Luncheon here at the National Bird Dog Museum in 2017. His field trial seasons were from the 1968-69 season through the 2005-06 season. When he was asked in 2015 why he stopped competing he said "Economics had a lot to do with it, and age had a lot to do with it. But I do miss it." Because of Collier's gentlemanly conduct and leadership he has been a good influence and is much respected in the field trial community. Collier is 80 years old this year. God blessed Collier and still continues to do so.



Collier is standing in the back row on the far left next to Ferrell Miller. This photo was taken during the Living Legends Luncheon in 2017. Many of these gentlemen have since passed away.



Collier on the left seated with Delmar Smith speaking

Legacy Page



Soupy on the left with Rex Carr and on the right with Augie Belmont. Soupy was handled in both the Open and Amateur trials by either Augie or Louise Belmont. NFC-NAFC Super Chief compiled an impressive record in All-Age competitions. Super Chief won three National Championships—the National Amateur Championship in 1967 & 1968 and the 1968 National Open Championship. Soupy earned 112.5 Amateur and 242 Open points. He was inducted into the Retriever Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, TN in 1992.

Super Chief (Soupy) — Soupy was given as a pup to August (Augie) and Louise Belmont by Wilbur Goode after a puppy purchased by the Belmonts from Goode failed to develop into the caliber of retriever that both had anticipated. Soupy may stand as one of the most gracious gifts in field trial history. The Belmonts raised Soupy on Long Island, until he was six months old. He was then sent to Escalon, CA and placed in the hands of Rex Carr for formal training. Soupy quickly took to the training routine and after Rex had worked him for four weeks, he wrote to the Belmonts saying the pup was making his days. Carr said the sun shone brighter because of Soupy. He ended the letter by saying send me more Soupys. Soupy is a true product of Rex Carr's excellent training and to Carr must go the credit for Soupy's success, as the Belmonts would tell anyone who would listen.



Saughton's Scud

Scud is pictured here with his owner and handler Janet Christensen, DVM. He was inducted into the Springer Spaniel Hall of Fame in 2000.

Janet got Scud from Talbot Radcliffe of Saughton's Springers in Wales. Scud came along slowly and it wasn't until he ran trials that Janet realized how good he was. Scud is the only Springer to win all three Nationals (Open, Amateur and Canadian) in a single year. He did this in 1980. Scud won trials not because he was flashy but because he was an exceptionally capable dog. He was sound in every department. He was a big, strong athletic animal, hard-driving and with outstanding bird-finding ability. He had great mental composure which helped him through situations which would have stymied lesser dogs. Scud was a very proud dog, he came to the line as if he knew he was the best. He was an outstanding performer and an outstanding breeding animal. Janet said she used to play a game called "spot a Scud puppy" - broad head, good bone structure, strong legs, smooth stride and the intense drive to the bird (flush). Scud became ill in 1984 which ended his field trial career & breeding life. He survived with surgery and lived to the age of 12 in the house. Scud was truly a dog who could do it all.



Final Thoughts



Summer has arrived and like all new seasons, it brings change and a chance for new beginnings. While we might anticipate a new beginning like the first page of a new chapter in a good book, the changes brought by time are not always so welcome. Although change is inevitable, we cannot forget what has come before. We must remember the days that have passed, the good memories we have made, and the lessons we have learned. It is this that prepares us for what lies ahead. We live in a world that seems to believe that anything old and worn out, people included, doesn't matter and that the experience of age can be ignored. Increasingly, the old seem to be cast aside in our society. We must stand firm and say yes we may have scars and may not be as beautiful as we once were, but we still function and our hearts and minds are still the same—full of love and memories. The museum is much the same—a place full of love, memories, tears, and laughter. Walking through the museum, the camaraderie of the field trial sport can really be felt. The legacy of dedication, leadership, and caring honored on these walls can truly leave you humbled.

Be proud of the experiences and mistakes that make you who you are. Social media and advertisements are constantly trying to make us feel inadequate by showing us a façade of flawlessness. They try to make us feel that we need to fix ourselves to be perfect. However, in life nothing is perfect. All the things that they tell us need to be fixed, our flaws and our quirks, are what makes us unique and who we are. Each individual is a masterpiece. Leave your uncertainties behind and enjoy the happiness that comes from being totally yourself. Embrace what makes you special. As we age we become uncool to the younger generations, but we must remain unapologetically authentic. Don't fake being flawless just to fit in. If you feel like a weirdo, it's okay because we are all weird in our own way. Constantly working to fit in is absolutely exhausting. We just need to be blind and deaf to the negativity around us. Let the hot air of others' harsh words and constant negativity blow right past you and enjoy the breeze. Just show up and enjoy the messy, imperfect, flawed, but beautiful journey of life because it is short. Take the road less traveled. It may be full of potholes and bumps, but it will be scenic and may be just what you needed. Very few people even attempt this anymore. They believe that it is just too risky or scary to be themselves and it is just easier to pretend to be someone else and follow the crowd down the same road.

It is all about attitude and how we look at things. Take a moment or two to reflect on the many blessings you have been given. If you are constantly worrying about everything or trying to figure out how to fit in, you miss the moments that make life great. Do something today that will give you or someone else a smile, it may be just what you needed. Enjoy the simple meaningful things in life.

Final thoughts continued..

Have a great summer everyone!

Tonya Brotherton, Executive Director



Just a side note to think about: It is sad that so many of the youth today don't have any memories of the simple things in life for the most part. Memories like camping under the stars, catching lightning bugs, hunting or fishing, riding a bicycle all over the place, getting a little muddy, or just sitting a spell on the front porch doing nothing but listening to grandma and grandpa or mom and dad telling stories and imparting wisdom. Today boredom comes too easy for the young if they do not have access to their phones or social media, which is used as babysitters. Sometimes the greatest memories come from the most unexpected things. There is no end of things for children to do outdoors if they just take the time to look. The Youth Field Trial Alliance is a great example. Take a look at the pictures of Anniston and Olivia below and let them teach you a thing or two about making memories, having a good time, and the enjoying the great outdoors. Their mom & dad, Rachel & David, are doing a great job imparting to their children the importance of the simple things in life.

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Do you know where the phrase "the dog days of summer" comes from? It has nothing to do with your puppy feeling hot and lethargic at this time of the year. The phrase originated from ancient astronomy. The ancient Greeks noticed that Sirius, a part of the constellation Canis Major, known as the "Dog Star" rose and set with the sun during midsummer. They believed that the star added extra heat to the sun's rays, ushering in the hottest part of the year. This time came to be known as the "dog days" and was associated with extreme temperatures, drought, disease, and unrest. While we now have a better understanding of astronomy, the phrase is still used to describe the hottest days of summer in the northern hemisphere. The dog days of summer officially run from July 1 to August 11 of each year.

