

New BDF Board Members Elected

Recently approved to a 3-year term on the foundation board of directors was **Albert R. Ginn, Jr.** of Waller, TX. Known to everyone simply as “A. R.,” he has been involved with Field Trial English Cocker Spaniels for 15 years. His first exposure to the bouncy little dogs was during a bird hunting trip in 1990. He stated that after that trip, “I just had to have one of those little dogs.” His wife, Ollie, was at last able to locate a pup and had it imported from Wales as a surprise. A. R. and Ollie were both smitten, and today they continue their love for the field English Cocker. A.R. not only helps to organize and judge trials, but also competes regularly in Open and Amateur stakes across the country.



A.R. is a native Texan from Houston and attended Rice University. In 1976, he co-founded a company called MBCI, which became a leading manufacturer of metal building components. The company later merged with a publicly held firm named NCI Building Systems. A.R. became Chairman and CEO of NCI in 2000, remaining until his retirement in 2007.



The second new board member added to the BDF board recently was **Richard L. “Dick” Pulliam** of Grand Junction, TN. Born in Knoxville, TN, he has been an avid hunter and fisherman all his life. Dick has been actively involved in Brittany field trials for the past 40 years. He was a founding member and president of the first Quail Unlimited chapter in west TN. He also served as president of the Volunteer Brittany Club for several years. Dick is current owner of one of the top field trial Brittanys in the nation, Grand Junction Jake, a dog which he regularly campaigns as an amateur.

Dick graduated with a business degree from the Univ. of Tennessee in 1958. After spending a tour of duty with the U.S. army, he went to work with Sears, Roebuck, & Co. There he was a credit management executive for 35 years prior to his retirement. He has also served on the board of directors of Memphis Consumer Credit Association for 10 years. He and his wife, Carol, live on a farm, and both belong to the Grand Junction Ruritan Club, a local civic organization.

From the Desk of the President



Don Driggers

Hello to everyone! I hope, despite the wild and crazy weather this Spring, that you and your family are enjoying a safe and enjoyable season. Last fall, my section of the country had to deal with hurricane Sandy, and now other parts of the nation are dealing with twisters, flooding, and all manner of extreme weather. But the weather was fair for three days in mid-April when the Labrador Retriever Club (LRC), and the local host club, Southern Flight (Memphis), pulled off a very enjoyable and memorable retriever trial on the hallowed grounds of the Ames Plantation just a couple of miles from the Bird Dog Foundation. It was quite a treat just to be on the grounds at Ames – a place steeped in history. I am indebted to all who helped make the events a success, most especially Dr. Rick Carlisle, Superintendent at Ames, for all his help, guidance, and hospitality. Also, a tip of the hat to Dean Reinke, and all the other wonderful folks at Purina, for underwriting our banquet night at the Bird Dog Foundation – we even managed to raise a considerable donation for the BDF. Our judges deserve a commendable “Thank You” also – can’t do it without judges, ever.

The Field Trial Hall of Fame weekend at the BDF in early February was another exceptional event. It is truly heartening to see sporting dogs people from all over the continent descend upon the little town of Grand Junction, TN where they or their dogs receive something akin to a lifetime achievement award. The inductions are always a very solemn and moving event. This year, it was most pleasing to welcome the English Cocker Spaniel contingent into the hall of fame. We welcome them and embrace them. Thanks are certainly due two long-time and faithful sponsors of our annual FTTHF festivities: Purina and the *American Field* magazine. Bob West at Purina, and Bernie Matthys at the *Field*, are generous hosts.

This year, we also welcomed two new sponsors: Garmin and Bird Dog Brand flavored whiskey. To Ted Gartner of Garmin and Jon Holecz of Western Spirits, we say Thanks!

The BSF annual Board of Directors meeting was held Sunday, Feb.9th, 2013. This year we seated two new members, A.R. Ginn and Dick Pulliam – both fine and capable gentlemen whom you can read about on front page of this newsletter.

While the BDF is stable and solvent, the board identified during its meeting, a need to grow our Endowment Fund while protecting the corpus of the fund. To that end, at my suggestion, the board voted to launch a 3-year Capital Campaign to raise \$200,000 for the Endowment. Wisely invested, earnings from the Endowment Fund can insure the future operation of the BDF and its wonderful museum and Field Trial Hall of Fame. Embarking upon such a campaign is a task the board did not take lightly. Each member has realized a true sense of responsibility in achieving our goal. To that end, you can help – and you may be approached and asked to help. Don’t be turned off if someone approaches for help. Instead, look at it as an honor to contribute to the long-term stability of this wonderful institution – we have more patrons and interest than ever before. Let’s keep it growing. And remember, any donation to the Bird Dog Foundation is a charitable gift to the extent allowed by IRS rules. We need your support!

Have a great summer!

Don S. Driggers
President

New Exhibits

Interactive Displays Enhance Visitor Experience

The recent installation of touch-screen interactive TV monitors by various sporting dog groups has created a new experience for BDF visitors. In keeping with the wave of new technology, the concept was first put in place in the Retriever Field Trial Hall of Fame two years ago. Most recently, with installation of wireless internet throughout the BDF venues, the National Red Setter Field Trial Club (NRSFTC) and North American Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA) have both installed TV monitors for visitor interaction. The monitors carry various sites and information of interest. A simple touch of the screen allows one to move from site to site. Both NAVHDA and the NRSFTC are also part of the new 6,000 sq. ft. Sporting Dog Wing added in 2012. The wireless system will eventually allow the updates to all programming from a remote location. A table of contents will allow visitors to find the pages they wish to view. The BDF is grateful to Purina for a grant to install the wireless system.



The Retriever Field Trial Hall of Fame was first to install interactive TV display.



NAVHDA has an interactive display in use.



National Red Setter Field Trial Club has installed a 48" interactive TV display.

Kudos & Recognition

Mr. Willis Corbett of St. Louis, Missouri (standing right in photo), patron of the BDF and longtime executive with Anheuser-Busch, was honored during the Annual Luke Meatte Memorial Fish Fry held last Feb. at the BDF. The fish fry has been a tradition supported and promoted by Mr. Corbett for two decades. It is held in conjunction with the National Field Trial Championship for pointing bird dogs held at Ames Plantation. David Smith, Executive Director of the BDF (at left in photo) is shown reading a Resolution of Appreciation for Mr. Corbett ratified by the BDF Board of Directors. In keeping with the night of appreciation, a *President's Special Recognition* plaque was also placed in the museum in honor of Mr. Corbett. On acceptance he stated, "I started coming to the National 37 years ago. I have made some great friends while enjoying the trials here and my association with the Bird Dog Foundation tremendously." Sponsoring the evening were Purina, Garmin, Avery Outdoors, Milton Smylie, and Central Distributors of Jackson, TN.



Mr. Richard "Dick" LeBeau of Pittsburgh, PA (shown at right in photo), performed a book signing during the Field Trial Hall of Fame induction weekend Feb. 9-10, 2013 at the BDF. Through special arrangements, he provided 100 signed, limited edition, hard-back copies of his new book, *"Count Noble: The Greatest Dog That Ever Lived."* It was Mr. LeBeau's first trip to the BDF and he was most impressed with seeing the actual taxidermy-preserved mount of Count Noble, a dog that died in 1891. Many have heard of the iconic dog and fountainhead of the Llewelin variety of the English Setter in America. Mr. LeBeau's book proved quite popular and all copies were sold. Through his generosity, the BDF gift shop grossed over \$3,000 in sales. Shown at left is Patricia Belt, BDF Gift Shop Manager, who hosted the arrangements. Paperback editions of the 108-page Count Noble book are still available via the gift shop. Cost is \$20.00 plus shipping.



Focus on Education

2013 Essay Scholarship Winners Announced by BDF

Awards were announced May 15th for the first and second place Senior Essay Scholarship winners. This year's round received 50 for the BDF, administers the project under the auspices of the Wildlife Heritage Center, the education arm of the foundation. The Michael R. Tuxon Education Fund is the grantor of the awards each year. Mr. Tuxon, now deceased, was a Nevada native and charter board member of the BDF. Participating high school seniors (including home-schoolers) may choose from a wide array of eligible essay topics. Students from Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee are eligible.



Emery Dunn of Cumberland City, TN was judged first place this year, earning her a \$1,500 scholarship. She is a senior at Montgomery Central High School and plans to enter the nursing curriculum at the Univ. of Tennessee at Knoxville this fall. Emery has lived near Cumberland City all her life and has enjoyed growing up on a horse farm. She also pursues hunting, fishing, and school sports. She has played softball for 12 years and shown horses competitively since age eight. Her essay was entitled: "Recycling." It was her honor to have been chosen President of the Tenn. Chapter – Health Occupations Students of America. She aspires to become a Family Nurse Practitioner.

Gavin Hillsman of La Vergne, TN won second place, taking a \$1,000 scholarship. He is a senior at Lancaster Christian Academy. Gavin plans to attend Middle Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro. His majors will either be biology or pre-med. He plans on attending medical school, with hopes of becoming an emergency room doctor. His essay was entitled: "*Conservation is Best.*"



Purina Partnership Program and *American Field* Boost Education Funding

The Bird Dog Foundation was notified May 14th that the Purina Partnership Program would continue its annual support of education funding by contributing \$4,278.19 to the Tuxon Education Fund. The funds arrived in a few days, thanks to the Purina brands weight circle rebates from two clubs sponsored by the *American Field* magazine.

Stated David Smith, Executive Director at the BDF, "This is the single most dependable source of funding for our scholarships and other education initiatives. Our hats are really off to Bob West and all those at Purina who make this program possible. We also appreciate Bernie Matthys at the *American Field* for creating the vehicles by which these funds might flow to our non-profit foundation. Thanks to all involved!" Purchase of Purina products by registered clubs or organizations can generate funds to selected non-profits based upon annual total pounds of dog food product consumed.

Recent Groups and Events

Tick Researchers – Yes, that’s right, ticks! With the spread of Lyme’s Disease and other tick related problems, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville has launched into tick research. This group of students and doctoral candidates were in residence at the nearby Ames Plantation (an experiment station of UT), and paid a visit to the National Bird Dog Museum. Lucy Cogbill, BDF Education Coordinator, along with David Smith, Executive Director, gave a tour and discussed dog health issues related to vectors such as ticks. Pictured (l-r): Brian Hendricks, Sarah Mays, Kim Pompo, Drew Mallinak, and Casey Wesselman.



Dates to remember:

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014 - Field Trial Hall of Fame inductions, BDF

**Saturday night Feb. 8, 2014 - Drawing Natl. Field Trial Championship –
Ames Plantation**

Sunday morning, Feb. 9, 2014 - BDF Board of Directors meeting, BDF

Sunday night, Feb. 9, 2014 - Kickoff Party for National Championship, BDF

**Monday, Feb. 10, 2014 - Running starts – Natl. Field Trial Championship-
Ames Plantation**

“Memorials & Honorariums”

The Bird Dog Foundation has received memorials for the following supporters and friends:

Don Lloyd	David Barr Tutt	Mrs. F. Lee Jolley (Rose)
David Barnes	Jack Grammer	Mrs. Sharon Houghtaling
Janet Chase	Dr. Bill Wheat	Sherwin Scott
Michael Hayes	Mrs. Millie Winsette	Mrs. Lyne Paul
Dr. Frank McKnight	Mrs. Audrey Minkler	Philip McMahan
Jenece Armstrong McKibben	Mrs. Ansel Griffin	Tom Sorenson
Ruth Hires	Mrs. Marie Hicks	
Maxine McClelland	Bob Carr	

Honorariums have been received for Dr. John Morgan, Earl and Judy Smith.

Life Patron Memberships have been awarded to Vera Courtney, John and Betty Evans, Sally Sullivan, and George Malaktaris

Patron Memorial plaques for Jeff Steele and Frank Mudd will be displayed at the Bird Dog Foundation's facilities.

A Great Dog Plaque for High Mileage Helltop's Hustle (David & Martha Kress) will be displayed in the Retriever Museum.

A Dog memorial has been received for Bonview Molly Brown (Robert Gillis),

For more information on the **Life Patron** or **Patron Memorial** plaque programs, contact David Smith, 731-764-2058 or sportdog@bellsouth.net.

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If you wish to send a simple gift in honor or in memory of a special person or dog, please complete and return.

In honor / In memory Name _____
(circle) Additional Information _____

Donor's Name _____ Amount _____
Address _____ enclosed _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____