

McDonald Sportsmen Association

By JEFF CRUM

THE "prairie-like" fields of the McDonald Sportsmen Association greeted participants to the fall renewal. The club has worked diligently over the past decade to improve the habitat on the club's surrounding terrain, a former strip mine. The grounds are mostly open with warm-season grasses, interspersed with food plots and patches of autumn olive.

For the first time the club was run under banners of both the Pennsylvania Walking Shooting Dog Association and the U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association so that the winners would accumulate points in each of the Associations' yearly awards. The club also received generous donations from Nestlé Purina of their Pro Plan dog food that was also awarded to the winners.

The event is run in conjunction with the Association's 3-D archery shoot. The 3-D archery shoot crew led by Bruce Mazaar manned the kitchen and kept everyone well fed. Don Godfrey and Howard Kerr provided assistance through the day.

We were glad to have a new member, but not new to the field trial game, Jeff Angott on hand to plant birds. My most favorite assistant and son Nathaniel was always available to run errands that kept the trial running smoothly. Chris Catanzarite, Al Fazzenbaker and the Howertons supplied horses for the judges.

Overseeing the nice field of puppies were Anita Howerton and club member Joe Collura. They named Upper Cove Queenie Babe (Grassi) the winner with a far-flung race that covered the ground



TEXAS COPPER TOP Second in the Open Shooting Dog Stake

well and a fancy way of going. Following close behind were Backcountry Bella (Catanzarite) and Swank's Shadow (Swank).

The Derby had Hilo Sugar Tin as the winner for Chris Howerton. Maggie, as she is called, had placed previously on these grounds as a puppy and it was nice to see her progression. Double Cole Deuce, a puppy-age pointer, took the second spot for Doug McMillen. A nice moving Irish setter named Natural Red earned third for Bill Aughenbaugh.

A strong field of 22 dogs vied for placements in the Open Shooting Dog under the watchful eyes of Joe Cammissa and last-minute step-in, Chris Howerton. The afternoon braces proved tough for bird-finding; the area had been dry for most of the summer and a dry breeze made bird work a premium. Topping the

field with one of the stake's rare multiple bird find braces was Swank's Celebration which ran to the limits and scored two finds. Veteran setter Texas Copper Top showed that she still has it, having come off whelping a litter of puppies. First year shooting dog Jar's Second Chance also ran a nice race though not as consistent as the top dogs with a nice find at an autumn olive bush.

McDonald, Pa., September 19 — One Course

Judges: Joe Collura and Anita Howerton

OPEN PUPPY — 2 Pointers, 3 Setters,

1 Gordon Setter and 3 Irish Setters

- 1st—UPPER COVE QUEENIE BABE, 1621927, setter female, by Shady Hills Billy—Upper Cove Tasha. Robert Grassi, owner and handler.
2d—BACKCOUNTRY BELLA, 1622118, pointer female, by Serious Threat—MacKenzie. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.
3d—SWANK'S SHADOW, 1618965, setter male, by Swank's Buccaneer—Swank's Silhouette. Rollin Swank, owner and handler.

Judges: Joe Cammissa and Joe Collura

OPEN DERBY — 4 Pointers, 1 Setter

and 1 Irish Setter

- 1st—HILO SUGAR TIN, 1615257, pointer female, by Erin's Tin Soldier—Snakefoot's Fearless Sugar. Chris Howerton, owner and handler.
2d—DOUBLE COLE DEUCE, 1618868, pointer male, by Cover Charge—American Honey. Doug McMillen, Jr., owner and handler.
3d—NATURAL RED, 1611398, Irish setter female, by Jericho—Solitaire. William Aughenbaugh, owner and handler.

Judges: Joe Cammissa and James Chris Howerton

OPEN SHOOTING DOG — 9 Pointers, 10 Setters

and 3 Irish Setters

- 1st—SWANK'S CELEBRATION, 1559715, setter male, by Max's Doc Holliday—Susquehannock. R. D. Swank, owner and handler.
2d—TEXAS COPPER TOP, 1548478, setter female, by Chip's Super Chunk—Sassy Topper. Kevin Klein, owner and handler.
3d—JAR'S SECOND CHANCE, 1607931, setter male, by Lone Gone Murphy—Persimmon Creek Gracie. Greg Yutzey, owner; Jeffrey Crum, handler.

NORTHEASTERN OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

(Special Bulletin) East Windsor, Conn.

Richfield Silver Belle, white and liver pointer female owned by Claudia and Bill McNamee of Waccabuc, N. Y., and handled by Luke Eisenhart, was named champion at the 2010 Northeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship at Flaherty Field Trial Area, East Windsor, Conn. Runner-up was The Insider, white and black setter male owned by John Fort of Camden, S. C., and also handled by Eisenhart.

According to the judges, very little separated the winners. Silver Belle logged eight finds and had an "amazing" race, said Judge Vicente Ballester. Her race was slightly quicker and she showed up in all the right spots. The Insider also logged eight finds, one being a divided find, and ran a strong race.

Judges were Vicente Ballester of Simpsonville, S. C., and Richard Bembenek of Webster, Mass.



Open Puppy Winners. From front left: Bob Grassi with Upper Cove Queenie Babe, Chris Catanzarite with Backcountry Bella and Rollin Swank with Swank's Shadow. Standing: Judge Anita Howerton and Nina Catanzarite.