

# Region 19 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

By FRANK LANASA

ONCE again the Northwest Field Association proudly hosted the AFTCA Region 19 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship on the unique wild area of the Namekagon Barrens in north-west Wisconsin. For more than three decades this area has provided a wild bird venue on which to compete. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has always welcomed our group and we are most thankful for that.

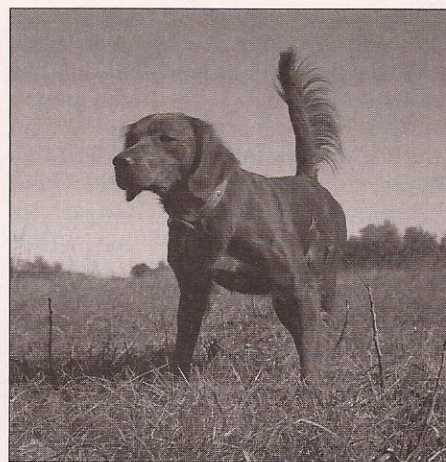
This year we were pleased to have as judges Keith Wright of Covington, Ind., and Paul Wright of West Point, Ind. Keith has been a strong competitor on the horseback shooting dog and all-age circuits. He is active in the breeding, development and campaigning of his own dogs and has had significant success. Paul is retired from breeding and working all-age dogs for the public for many years. Their selections were well received.

One of the thrilling parts of wild bird trials is that you are never sure how the day will play out. Will the birds be active? If so, in what cover? Will they be running or holding? It certainly adds to the character of the trial. Throughout this trial we continually saw single, double and three bird groups of older birds. We would see the occasional covey; however, it was the exception rather than the rule. It made the "easy finds" nonexistent. The dogs that were rewarded with game did so because they worked at it.

The good news is that there was a substantial number of older birds on the grounds which bodes well for next year.

Thanks to Bob and Katherine Gove for their marshalling work, and for putting on a wonderful dinner Thursday evening. The Goves have been very important parts of the Northwest Field Association for more than thirty years.

Thanks to Chuck Wingard and John



**RESTLESS RED TOOLMAN**  
Runner-Up in the Region 19 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

Shure for handling dog wagon duties.

Handling the winner Nemaha Free Way, Pat McInteer showed a dog which put forth a consistent ground effort. On these grounds it takes strength to do that. With the grass and brush heavier than normal there was no relief for the dogs. More than halfway through his performance Free Way found his first covey of sharptails near the end of a half-mile along southerly laying bowl of brush oak and prairie grass. He handled the situation perfectly while a small group of mature birds was flushed from directly in front of him. His second find, much like his first, came about 10 minutes later. The dog shows great character and intensity around game and finished his performance with the same focus and effort with which he started.

Bob Gove was at the controls for enthusiastic charge Restless Red Toolman, the runner-up. Toolman moved quickly through the cover. His dark red coat made tracking him quite the challenge in the Namekagon cover. His speed and quickness added to the thrill but whenever he showed it was in the right places at the right times. Bob's confidence was evident throughout as he continued forward calling on Toolman. The dog responded time and time again by showing right where you want one to be. Strong throughout the effort he had two beautiful pieces of work, one of which was a thrilling relocation. His character and posture on game were memorable.

Danbury, Wis., September 8

Judges: Keith A. Wright and Paul K. Wright  
**REGION 19 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] —**

**34 Pointers, 7 Setters and 1 Irish Setter**

Winner—NEMAHA FREE WAY, 1617191, pointer male, by Nemaha Free Style—Nemaha Tinker Bell. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.

Runner-Up—RESTLESS RED TOOLMAN, 1602579, Irish setter male, by Silver Creek's Wanted—Restless Red Cedar. Katherine Gove, owner; Robert Gove, handler.

## Purina Handler of the Year Awards

THE second half of the 2010-2011 field trial season is in "full gear," with a slate of top-flight stakes on the coming weeks' schedule. The appended listing is for all trials, the results of which have been reported as of January 10.



### ALL-AGE HANDLER AWARD STANDINGS

Daugherty, Andy	1581
Gates, Robin	1204
Hurdle, Steve	922
Todd, Ike	780
Vincent, Allen	755
Downs, Randy	740
Derrig, Sean	709
Lester, Gary P.	674
Phillips, Lee	589
Anderson, Randy	491
Furney, Rick	456
McLean, Mark	403
Robertson, Rich	360
Davis, Colvin	250
Henry, Lefty	235
Corder, Dr. Fred	227
Smith, Terry	210
Steinshouer, Lori	207
Morton, Billy Wayne	175
Lundy, Mike	140
Hicks, Joe	138
Kelly, Sean	120
Davis, Tommy	100
Huffman, Larry	99
Warren, Ray	98

Hjerpe, Dr. C. A.	80
Hansen, Torben	72
Ledington, Bridget	72
Hilliard, Mack	66
Liesfeld, Tom	57
Mauck, Eric	48
Westfall, Ryan	42

### SHOOTING DOG HANDLER AWARD STANDINGS

Eisenhart, Luke	2948
Tracy, Mike	1572
Kinkelaar, Shawn	1530
Ray, Doug	809
Gellhaus, Travis	712
Tracy, George	409
Stretz, Chuck	340
Tracy, Jeanette	285
Hester, Mike	260
Hansen, Torben	222
Williams, Jason	216
Zink, Drew	195
Tande, Jim	189
Gearhart, Harold	183
Lewis, Jerry	171
Hart, Ed	144
Taylor, Chuck	120
McDowell, Marvin	117
Newcomb, George	100
Taylor, Eddy	78
Ledington, Jim	75
Smith, Terry	72
Hjerpe, Dr. C. A.	54
Walker, Neil	54
Casey, Pat	36