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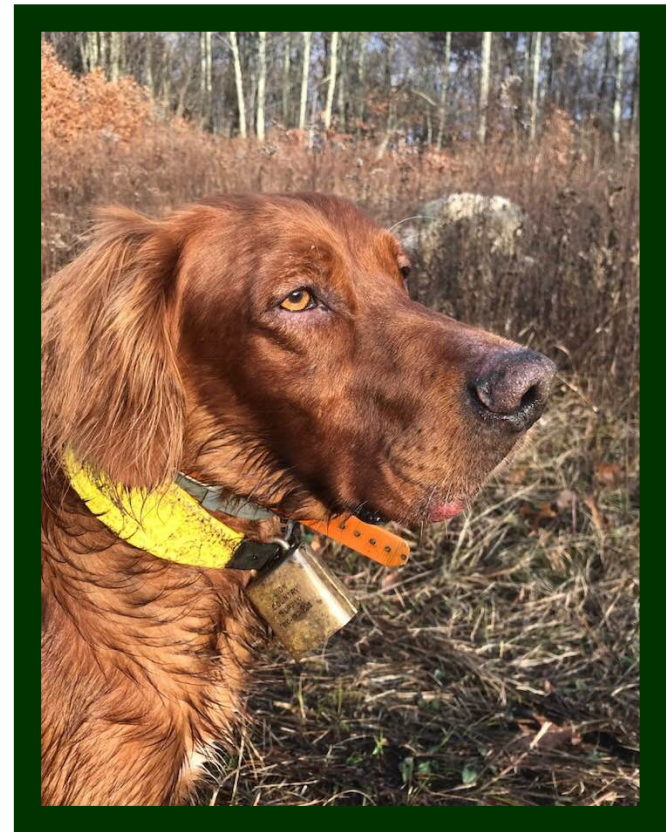
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The
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Braeval Bearcat Laddie

International Woodcock Champion

"The Flushing Whip: Official Publication of the Red Setter Foundation, Ltd. serving the National Red Setter Field Trial Club"

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Dues

\$30.00 annual dues are payable January 1st of each year. Membership rates for new members who join the NRSFTC after June 1st are prorated at half the dues amount for that calendar year. Membership dues include a subscription to *The Flushing Whip*. *The Flushing Whip* is available only to members of the National Red Setter Field Trial Club, Inc. Publication, which is supported by membership dues, is a service (but not an obligation) of the club’s officers. A copy of each issue is mailed to every member in good standing. Membership application forms, Futurity Nomination Forms and other Mail-In materials are periodically included as your envelope with *The Flushing Whip*. If forms are not available in this particular issue, you can download them from the NRSFTC web site.

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Please Note: The material contained in this publication is intended to provide accurate, authoritative and educational information for our members. By their nature, the articles contained herein cannot provide the total, complete and detailed guidance required by every individual in every situation. The material is therefore offered with the provision that it is not the intent of the editors or the authors to render professional counsel on the matters covered and said persons cannot be held liable for any use thereof. If specific assistance is required, the services of an expert authority should be obtained.

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We value your privacy. The NRSFTC Privacy Policy is posted at NRSFTC.COM If you have any questions about how the NRSFTC protects your personal information, please refer to our privacy policy located on our Site.”

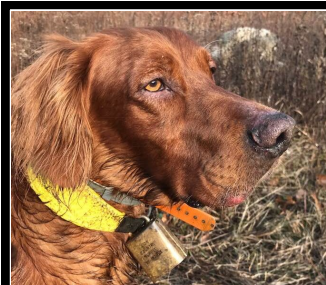


The Flushing Whip

May June 2019



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Way to Go Laddie !!



Congrats to Braeval Laddie who bested 30 other all breed dogs and won the Championship

National Red Setter Field Trial Club

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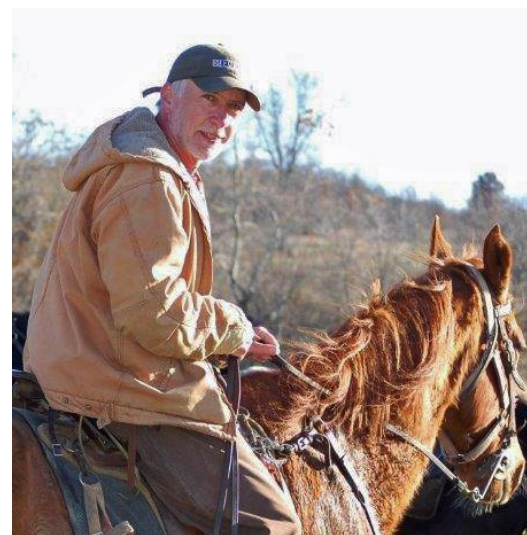
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Presidents Page by Al Fazenbaker



The spring trial season is nearly over and already we are looking forward to the fall trial season! I know that some of you are heading north to do some summer training, and others are working those derby prospects preparing them for the upcoming season. Enjoy the summer and have fun with your training!

Congratulations to Gregor McCluskey and his fine red

setter Braeval Bearcat Laddie, who won the prestigious International Amateur Woodcock Championship, besting a field of 30 pointers and setters to take the blue. Be sure to check out the article in this issue. Congratulations on a GREAT win!

In Board news, the upcoming fall championship will begin the requirement of all participants to notify the club if they are running a dog that has been physically altered. The altering of dogs, typically cutting of tails to reduce the sickle in the tail, as well as other physical alterations, has been a contentious item with some club members. At a previous meeting, the Board of Directors elected to require all participants to notify the trial chair if they are running a dog that has been physically altered; the participant also has the option of making "no comment" regarding the status of their dog. Mike Jacobson made the original resolution against cosmetically altering dogs and the Board supported it. I asked Mike Jacobson to sit down with me and explain why the Board wanted this resolution passed, and you'll find that interview further on back. The crux of the issue for many is the fact that when a dog is altered, and then bred,

(Continued on page 6)

those traits can still be passed on to offspring. The result is that physically altering a dog does not improve the quality of the dog, but simply masks an undesirable trait. A person purchasing a dog for breeding purposes may unwittingly breed a dog that has, for example, the genetics of a sickle tail, yet appears to have a straight tail because it has been physically/surgically altered. Be sure to read through our interview which explains it further. Along those lines, it is important to remember that field trials are run in order to improve the breed; physically altering a dog to hide an undesirable trait certainly does not conform to the purpose of field trialing. Ultimately, of course, it is the responsibility of the canine owner to ensure that he is purchasing a sound dog for breeding purposes. When purchasing a dog, especially for breeding, be sure to do your homework, make inquiries, and if possible, visit and observe the parents in the field. Examining pedigrees can provide some useful information regarding a potential bird dog purchase, but seeing the parents in action is usually your best bet.

Don't forget to mark your calendar and plan to attend our fall championship in Grove Springs MO this coming November. Details and information will be forthcoming in a future issue of the Flushing Whip.

As this Whip goes to press, we have news that Dr. Roger Boser, a longtime member of the club, is undergoing back surgery to repair some vertebrae, and is expected to be laid up for several weeks during the summer. Please keep Roger in your thoughts as he recuperates; if you would like to send him a note, please send to: Roger Boser, 7276 South Rd., Seven Valleys, PA 17360. We wish Roger a speedy recovery!

The Board continues to work on a bylaws update; in addition, we are looking at an update to our website, which has not had a "sprucing up" for quite a few years. I will keep you posted on these items as progress is made. In the meantime, don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook!

Enjoy your summer!

Go red dogs!

Al Fazenbaker, President

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Rambling from Red Setter Run

Hi Everyone! This horse here is my "Magic" boy!! We're wrapping up this issue just a few days before Memorial Day. It will be long passed by the time this goes to the printer and returns to me— Then I'll address it and get it all in the mail. I expect it may be approaching July 4th by then and so I take a moment to remind you that freedom isn't free. Keep our service men and women in your prayers and whenever you have the opportunity, Thank them for their generous service to our nation.



I've included a Memorial Page to this newsletter's namesake, Flushing Whip's Flash Edition. She was an exceptional bird dog— so much so that the Associated Bird Dog Clubs of Ohio awarded her Amateur Shooting Dog of the Year in 2008. Flash, a littermate to Ch Come Back Audie was mother to Roger Ramjet and 3Ch NSTRA Pal Holiday. When we retired Flash from Field Trialing she went to live with our dear friend, and club member James Inbody here in Ohio. James lives adjacent to a very nice wildlife management area where he can hunt daily. Flash became his constant hunting companion and lived her days hunting joyfully with Jim. She was 14 when she died. We'll all miss her

A couple months ago, Gregor McClusky and his dog, Braeval Bearcat Laddie had a big win at the International Woodcock Championship, Thirty one dogs ran— and Laddie was the only Irish Red Setter in the mix. The trial report is included here. Congratulations to Gregor, and his great dog Laddie. The International Woodcock Championship has a long prestigious history— Chris Mathan wrote an exception piece about that history which is available on the Amateur Field Trail Clubs of America site. She graciously allowed us to include it here for you and we appreciate that. We thank Chris and the Amateur Field Trail Clubs of America for allowing us to use it here. Every year the Woodcock migrate back through Ohio. Allen and I love to see them— and our dogs are eager to point them in the woods. In case you don't get to catch them during migration, I've included some additional info from the American Grouse and Woodcock Society for you. The Ruffed Grouse

Society/American Woodcock Society strives to preserve our sporting traditions by creating healthy forests for ruffed grouse and American woodcock. RGS biologists work with private landowners and state and federal agencies to improve lands for grouse, woodcock, and other wildlife that need similar habitats. Local RGS chapters organize and run habitat-related, hunting, and fundraising events. Allen and I belong to our local chapter and we appreciate their help and support. Consider supporting this organization; they do great work!


There are a couple plants out of doors that can wreak havoc for dogs and people alike. The Jacobsons found out first hand about the perils of Wild Parsnips and Giant Hogweed when Shaye's pup nearly lost his eye last year. I've included their story and information about these dangerous and invasive plants.

In 2017 our Board passed a resolution against the cosmetic alteration of dogs. In essence it states that all participants in NRSFTC Breed Restricted Championship Stakes or the NRSFTC Futurity shall be asked whether their dog has been physically altered. The official record will include any information given or will state that the owner declined comment. Although the motion is effective for all dogs born on or after January 1, 2018, hopefully entrants will provide information on any/all dogs who compete— regardless of their age or birthdate. Simple integrity and support of the “*Purest challenge*” make this seem the right choice. Hopefully our records will indicate that the alterations no longer continue. I also included a clarification interview in this issue to help explain the new procedures.

Before you think about getting a new puppy, take time to give thought about what to look for in a responsible and reputable breeder. Check out our “10 tips for finding a breeder” that’s “just right” for you.

Seems like it's time for some summer fun— so, there are 2 contests in this issue— Identifying historical photos and Word Search. Mail in the solution to each contest and YOU'LL be entered in a drawing to win an embroidered NRSFTC shirt with your kennel name included. 2 shirts to be given away! For either contest, send your answers to flushingwhip@gmail.com. Remember, you won't win if you don't play! Finally, Roger Boser is having surgery in mid June and we wish him the very best— Please keep Roger in your prayers and send him a card or note. Roger Boser, 7276 South Rd., Seven Valleys, PA 17360.

Deb



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Flushing
Whips

IN MEMORY OF
FLASH EDITION

04/05/2005 – 05/06/2019



May you hunt in those places where illustrious
bird dogs go, joining the legions of distinguished
bird dogs who slipped away before you.—
Running the great hunt with the pack you knew
and loved: Finn McCool, King Cormac, Metz
Medicine Man, Roger Ramjet and all the rest...

Slán abháile má chárta

The Amateur International Woodcock Championship

Background information graciously provided by Chris Mathan

A migratory bird, the American Woodcock's primary breeding range is southeastern Canada, Maine and the Great Lakes region, dropping down as far as central West Virginia. The woodcock's wintering range includes all the southeastern states as well as Arkansas and Texas.

About the size of a robin, the woodcock's long, thin bill is used to probe rich soils for earthworms which make up about 60% of their diet, with numerous other insects providing the rest. Their dietary requirements, in part, determine their habitat needs of dense, moist young forestland, preferably along field edges that provide cover as well as the singing grounds for the males to perform their flight song and ground display to attract females. Males may mate with several females and play no role in incubation or rearing of juveniles. The female lays her clutch of four eggs in a slight depression on the ground among dead leaves. The incubation period is 19 - 22 days with eggs hatching from early April until mid-June. The chicks leave the nest within hours of hatching though they remain with the hen. They grow rapidly on a high protein diet of worms and insects, are strong flyers by four weeks and are independent by six to eight weeks of age.

Woodcock migrate at low altitudes of about 50 feet, traveling at night and resting and feeding in secluded thickets during the day. The birds may travel alone or in loose flocks called "flights." Migration usually peaks in late October and early November with cold autumn nights and strong northwest winds often push large numbers of woodcock south.

There are two major woodcock populations in North America, with each inhabiting a separate region: the Eastern Region is from the Appalachian Mountains east; and the Central Region is from west of the Appalachians to the Great Plains.

The greatest threat to woodcock has been the rapid decrease of suitable habitat for feeding, breeding, nesting and needed layover areas during migration. Much study and effort is being conducted by conservation organizations to try to improve conditions for the survival of this well-loved bird.

International Amateur Woodcock Championship

Field trialer and biologist Tim Tufts recalls the following:

"In the early 1970s the University of New Brunswick was conducting a woodcock habitat study that I was involved in. One of the areas where the study was conducted, the Mazerolle Settlement, was just north of

(Continued on page 11)

2018 Derby Standings as of as of 6/1/19

Runs July 1, 2018 through June 30th, 2019

Name	Sex	Owner	Sire	Dame	Points
Gratitude	M	Roger Boser	CB Cutter	CB Doodle	408
Hatcreeks Lady Red	F	Dwight Ingram	Come Back Cutter	CB Doodle	123
Come Back Billy Boy	M	Joe Edwards	Come Back Cutter	CB BeeGee	116
Stiletto	F	Roger Boser	CB Cutter	CB BeeGee	24
Outlander	M	Roger Boser	Rendition	Coldplay	24

2018 Puppy Standings as of as of 6/1/19

Runs July 1, 2018 through June 30th, 2019

Name	Sex	Owner	Sire	Dame	Points
Celtic's Red Zone	F	Paul Ober O Robert Ecker H	Celtic's Expeditiously	Celtic's Culmination	164
Raintree Blue Moon	M	C Lewis/D Reinke Tom Wait H	ZanSett Simply Red	Foxy's Lil Red Missy	44

2019 Open Walking Shooting Dog as of 4/8/19

Runs January 1st 2019 through December 31st, 2019

Name	Sex	Owner	Sire	Dam	Points
Braeval Laddie	M	Gregor McCluskey	Justified	Redstone	990



Different game in Ireland where one of Joe O'Sullivan's Irish setters "quarters" in dense cover

Duke Award as of as of 6/1/19

Runs July 1st 2018 through June30, 2019

Name	Sex	Owner	Sire	Dam	Points
Roses Are Red	F	Tim Hammons	Time To Rock	Red Rush	162
Little More Shine	F	Tim & Kris Hammons	Red Rock	Covered in Red	158
Lily An Creag	F	David Creagan	Justified	Red Stone	93

A new season is now in effect for the Duke Standings. The Purina Amateur Shooting Dog Points trials that count for this award are found on page 2 of the August 25, 2018 issue of the American Field. A list of the Purina Open Shooting Dog Points trials that count are on the inside cover (Page 2) of the August 11, 2018 issue of the American Field. Also all Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational Points trials count toward this award. Please send the information on your dogs wins within (30) thirty days to: Don Beauchamp, 1401 South 359 St W., Cheney, KS 67025

2019 LeGrande Award Standings as of 6/1/19

Runs January 1st 2019 through December 31st, 2019

Name	Sex	Owner	Sire	Dam	Points
Roses Are Red	F	Tim Hammons	Time To Rock	Red Rush	726
Little More Shine	F	Tim & Kris Hammons	Red Rock	Covered In Red	640
Rendition	M	Roger Boser	Touchstone	Solitaire	238
Waycross	M	Roger Boser	Justified	Redstone	150
Windfall	M	Roger Boser	Touchstone	Redstone	91

2019 High Performance Award as of 6/1/19

Runs January 1st 2019 through December 31st, 2019

Name	Sex	Owner	Sire	Dam	Points
Roses Are Red	F	Tim Hammons	Time To Rock	Red Rush	270
Little More Shine	F	Tim & Kris Hammons	Red Rock	Covered In Red	180



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PURINA

the Fredericton campus.

I had two passions back then, woodcock and bird dogs. Through some of the local field trial community, people like Harold Hatfield, Dave Palmer, Ron Ashfield, Andy Wishart, and several others, we decided to put on the first New Brunswick Woodcock Classic.

There were no courses but since I'd been running a trap line for woodcock all year we turned the first brace loose with the second on leashes and "hunted" the country.

The classic ran for several years with support from not only the New Brunswick crew but such stalwarts as Al Pilon, Bob Paucek, Warren Sims, Bernie Murray, and many others from the New England Field Trial community.

Having fulfilled the AFTCA stringent requirements, the first International Amateur Woodcock Championship hosted by the New Brunswick Field Trial Association was held in October of 1977. It was conducted on the Mazerolle Settlement and adjoining lands where three one-hour courses were laid out with a fourth course on Crown property located about eight miles to the southwest. An official tally of 162 woodcock and 21 grouse were counted as opportunities afforded the dogs during the trial.

As with all wild bird grounds, the Mazerolle began to go by and it was then that the championship moved further north to Debec, New Brunswick and ran on land owned by Harold and Andy.

To this day, even though Harold and Andy are no longer with us, one of the most beloved amateur championships continues with the help of the stalwarts like Keith Burgess."

The inaugural running of the **International Amateur Woodcock Championship** held near Fredericton, New Brunswick, started on October 8, 1977 and drew 12 Pointers, 24 Setters and 1 Brittany. The judges were Dr. Thomas M. Flanagan and Basil G. Hawkins. The winner was 2 1/2 year old Setter female Ghost Star (Ghost Train x Hy Kaliber Tiny) owned by T. O. Shermoe and handled by Bryant Shermoe. Though other contenders are described in the report by Al Pilon, no runner-up was named. Perhaps, the judges felt no dog came close to the stunning performance of the winner.



Inaugural Winner Ghost Star 1977

History of the International Amateur Woodcock Championship is reproduced courtesy of ©Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America. It can be found on the website along with histories of other National Amateur Championships@ www.aftca.org/about-aftca/amateur-championships. Please support the AFTCA with your membership and give to the 20th Century Fund.

42nd International Amateur Woodcock Championship

Champion Bra Val Bearcat Laddie- Gregor McClusky
with RU Champion Stokes Willie B-Jamie Leitch

As reported by Russell Ogilvie



Gregor McClusky with Bra val Bearcat Laddie with Judges Leonard Sinclair and Steve Forest

The 2019 International Amateur Woodcock Champion came out of the eighth brace on the Cemetery course. Bra Val Bearcat Laddie, a red setter, owned and handled by Gregor McClusky of Harwinton, CT was braced with Chasehill Baby Bella (Flewelling). Both Laddie and Bella broke away and headed straight for the green briar. Bella stopped shortly after the break away but Flewelling got her moving forward when her bell started up. Both dogs hammered the cover as they worked through the green briars and rhododendron. Laddie was first to get on the board. As the handlers worked their way out of the rhododendron, Laddie swung up hill and dove into the briars and stopped at 20:00. McClusky fought his way into the tangles and having trouble finding his dog, he called for a scout. The dark red of the setter was difficult to see in the briars but was finally located. Laddie was standing proud as McClusky walked in front and produced the woodcock. With battle wounds from the briars, McClusky took his dog back to the course. As McClusky worked his way out of the tangle,

(Continued on page 13)

Tear out this page to report wins

How to Report Wins for Club Standings

Summer Awards

Runs 7-1-18 through 6-30-19

DUKE : Send wins to:

Don Beauchamp
1401 South 359 St W
Cheney, KS 67025
Home Ph: 316-542-0103

Winter Awards

Runs Jan -Dec 2018

W.E.LeGrande

High Performance
Email: lsbeauchamp2@aol.com

PUPPY and DERBY Awards

Send to: Deb Fazenbaker
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Kingsville, OH 44048
440-969-0567
flushingwhip@gmail.com

Shoot to Retrieve send wins:

Mike Fox
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mike.fox@heidelberg.com

Jim Fike Amateur Handler

Award secy notes AF placements
Contact Bonnie Hidalgo
303-655-1099
fireflyfarm@msn.com

Walking Shooting Dog Award

Tom Norton. 81 Riverview
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areas. Like poisonous parsnips, Giant hog weed will also cause severe burns. A reaction from giant hogweed can begin within 15 minutes.

If you get sap from either of these plants on your skin, wash the affected area immediately with soap and cold water and seek emergency medical care. Stay out of the sunlight for 48 hours because it can take several days for a reaction to occur. Apply sunscreen to affected areas if you can't stay out of the sun.

Like any living organism, plants have ways of protecting themselves. Wild parsnip and giant hogweed release their toxic sap as a defense. Essentially, the chemical makeup of the sap prevents the skin from protecting itself from the sun. The sap eats away at the skin if it's not washed off immediately. It's common to see a reddening of the skin, rashes, and blisters, accompanied by scalding pain. The skin around the burn will turn dark brown or reddish like a scar, and may last for several months afterward. If the sap gets in your eyes, as it did with Rudy, it may cause permanent blindness.

Pet owners need to beware of these toxic and dangerous plants. Dogs and outside cats can be affected and they can transfer sap to you if there's any on their coat. Know how to identify wild parsnip and giant hogweed so you and your pets can give these plants a wide berth.

So, here's the "POINT" to remember

Take time to select safe areas like this one to train and hunt safely

Photo of the late Come Back Red Cassidy



Bella who was out ahead, cut up hill and went into the briars. She stopped just past the fallen down building at 24:00. Flewelling and the judge quickly found her and the woodcock was sent skyward. Both dogs got back to the course and headed for the open timber. Laddie stopped in a seep at 29:00 but nothing was home. After being release, Laddie raced to the front and never let up. The red setter glided through the open hardwoods handling with ease. Bella got a little lateral as she headed up over the hill. McCluskey and Laddie kept up a strong pace and moved down along the river and towards the road. With time running out, Laddie stopped in the wet hole right before the road for everyone to see. Mcluskey walked in front and the timberdoodle shot out of his hide. With the shot, the brace was done and a new standard was set. This is not the first major placement for McClusky and Laddie. Laddie has a blue ribbon in a horseback open shooting dog championship, a runner up placement, as well as a runner up in the national futurity.

The Runner Up, Stokes Willie B, came out of the tenth brace. Willie, a handsome white and orange ticked male setter caught everyone's eye early. Willie is owned by Tony and Marie Bly of Milan, NH and handled by Jamie Leitch. Willie's brace mate was Caird's Lefty (Bonetti). The action started quickly on Pine Top. Lefty stopped just on the other side of a stone wall at 4:00 and Willie came in and backed. Bonnetti could not produce a bird and both dogs where sent on. Willie stopped at 8:00 just off the right side of the course with Lefty honoring. Willie, standing high and tight for everyone to see, stood solid as Leitch walked in front and produced the bird. Once again, both dogs were sent on and as Lefty crossed over from left to right, up pooped a woodcock and Lefty put the brakes on at 10:00. With the flurry of activity complete on the top of the hill, both dogs stretch their legs and headed down the hill. With the dogs coming in and out of bell range, the handlers, judges, and gallery worked their way to the bottom. Once we got to the bottom, there wasn't a bell to be heard. After a little searching, Lefty was found tucked in a brushy island with Willie backing at 20:00. Bonnetti worked his way through the tangle trying to get a bird to fly but nothing was home. Both dogs continued

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on. Willie, steadily worked the course and handled well for the Leitch. When time was called, the judges convened and Willie took over the runner up spot. This was Jamie's first championship placement but not Willie's. Willie took the runner up honors in the Northern New England Woodcock Championship in 2018.

For the first time in 42 running's, the International Amateur Woodcock Championship came across the New Brunswick border. The tradition and pride that goes with this championship is well known with some of the best coverdogs in North America going to the line. What would be more fitting then running on migrating woodcock of which many would probably end up in New Brunswick. For those of you that are not familiar with the Arcadia grounds, they are a mix of green briar tangles, river bottoms, field edges and open hardwoods. One of the benefits for running this trial in Arcadia in the spring is the ability for handlers, judges, and the gallery to see much more of the dogs work as they cover the country. The gallery can often see the dogs on point, the flush attempt, and the exiting of a woodcock. The migrating woodcock are naturally found in the seeps, bottoms, and the green briar patches but on any given year when the flights are right, birds can be found in great numbers just about any place on the courses. This year was a typical year where each course had birds but the dogs had to work for them. The prestige of this championship drew 31 entries that would run on three courses. While most entries were relatively local, we did have dogs that came from as far away as Michigan, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. It takes a small army to make a trial of this caliber happen and there can never be enough thanks handed out. Our first thanks goes out to Will Walker of the Forestry Division for approving our use permit. Of course, what would be a field trial without the ongoing support from Purina and Garmin. They not only covered the cost of the ad, but provided the winners with food and collars to go along with the sculpted plaques provided by Brue Fox. A thank you goes to the judges, Leonard Sinclair from Bocabec, NB and Steve Forest from Hampden, Me. Both judges put down tracks and went into the briars without hesitation to make sure nothing was missed. At the end of the day, the Stolgitist family, owners of Chasehill Kennel, opened up their home for handlers to stake dogs out and for everyone involved in the trial to fill their

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Giant Hogweed

Another dangerous invasive plant, giant hogweed is native to the far away Caucasus Mountain region of Eurasia. It showed up in the New York area in 1917, most likely as an ornamental plant because of its beautiful white flowers and large size. This toxic weed has been described as "wild parsnip on steroids." To give you an idea of the plant's size, check out this picture. The flowers on the giant hogweed are white like Queen Ann's Lace but they are much much larger. This huge plant that can grow up to 14 feet, has



Check out this Giant Hogweed— if I were the botanist in this photo, I'd have my arms covered, wear safety glasses and stand a bit further away. See HUGE white flowers up top! See the close up below. It's colored just like Queen Ann's lace but the flowers are HUGE!



thick leaves up to 5 feet wide and large clusters of white flat-topped flowers that grow in an umbrella-like pattern. The hollow green stem is dotted with purple splotches and coarse white hairs grow along it. Giant hogweed can be found in meadows, along roadways, stream and river banks, in fields, forests and yards. Thankfully this plant isn't as widespread as wild parsnip...yet. So far, it's been found in WA, OR, IL, WI, IN, OH, MI, NC, PA, NY, MD, NJ, VT, NH, CT, MA and ME. Listed as a federal noxious weed, states are destroying giant hogweed when they find it, but it's tenacious and continues to slowly creep into new

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So, if you enjoy hunting or hiking in the out of doors— and your dog does too, pay close attention to the plants you encounter along the way. Here are some tips about two different kinds of invasive plants that can cause the chemical burns we've spoken about today.

Wild Parsnip

Wild Parsnip is native to Europe and Asia and was brought to the United States by immigrants who cultivated the plant for its edible root. It can be found throughout most of the United States except Hawaii, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. A member of the Umbelliferae family which includes carrots, celery, parsnip, parsley and Queen Anne's Lace, wild parsnip is a biennial/perennial herb that smells similar to the garden variety parsnip.

Sometimes referred to as poison parsnip, the toxic sap can be found in the plant's small five-petal yellow flowers that grow in an umbrella like pattern, as well as in the fruit, jagged leaves and hairy hollow stem. Wild parsnip's sap contains a substance called *psoralen*, that reacts with sunlight. It can produce extreme burns on the skin that



may even warrant a trip to the emergency room!

Wild parsnip can grow up to five feet high with leaves that resemble celery leaves. It's found along roadways, in ditches, pastures, abandoned fields, on restored prairie land, and disturbed areas. The yellow flowers of the Wild Parsnips are often mistaken for Queen Anne's lace which looks very similar but those flowers are distinctly WHITE.



Wild parsnip caused these severe blisters
And burns on this woman's arm.

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bellies. Heading up this trial was chairman, Tim Kisieleski. He had the vision to try and take the IAWC in a new direction. Last but by far not least, a thank you to the owners of the dogs and the handlers that turned them loose. They make the IAWC what it is. As a thank you, Tim Kisieleski handed each handler a one of a kind IAWC Flewelling bell.

The Running:

The first brace of the IAWC broke away on Friday, March 29 on Pine Top. Wild Apple White Lightning (Rizza) broke away with Stokely's Frankie B (Murray). Frankie had a quick stop at 2:00 and Mikey came in and failed to back. After rounding up Mikey, Frankie went forward where he got under a bird at 6:00.

Guardian (Flewelling) and Springbrook Maximus (Ogilvie) charged out of the gate on Cemetery. Both dogs made it through the first pass of the green briar without any action. After passing through the rhododendron thicket, Max stopped at a seep on the edge of the thorn tangle at 18:00. Nothing could be produced. Chip swung out ahead and cut into the green briars and stopped at 20:00. Flewelling kicked the woodcock out with all in order. Both dogs crossed the road where Max would stop in the briars on the right side at 24:00. Another vacant stop for Max. Chip and Max would glide through the hardwoods but nothing else was produced by the time was called.

Faith's Maximum Justice (Delong) broke away with Chasehill Little Thudd (Wheeler) on the Bridge course. Both dogs shot out of the gate with Justice settling in first. Justice made the first turn back along the stream with ease. Thud, with a little coxing, made the turn as well. Justice stopped on the edge of the stream at 13:00. Justice, standing in the wide open allowed for the whole gallery to see the woodcock take flight when Delong stepped in front. Thud had the next stop at 15:00 but Wheeler could not produce a bird. Just before they crossed the road, Thud stopped again at 28:00. Justice, after having a very nice race going, failed to back to end his run. Wheeler got the bird to fly and took Thud on. With the course to themselves, handler and dog crossed the road. Wheeler worked to get Thud around the final turn and headed towards the field. The field would be Thuddy's demise as

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he took a bird out at 44:00.

Hog Hill Kissamee Ace (Cavanaugh) and Long Gone Mercedes (Murray) had the second go of the day at Pine Top. Sadie got right to work at 4:00 with Ace backing. Murray flushed the doodle with all in order. Both dogs hunted the top without any more action. Ace and Sadie would stop at 44:00. When both handlers got the dogs, Murray thought his dog was having a back off so he chose not to flush. After some thought, Cavanaugh chose to send his dog on as well. Sadie stopped again at 48:00 with Ace backing. As Murray was flushing, Ace decided to take a step forward and Cavanaugh picked him up. Murray could not produce a bird and sent Sadie on. Sadie had another stop at 55:00 and was picked up after Murray could not produce a bird.

Ruff Grouse Lilly (Christopher) and Wynot Atom (Robbins) had the second go at Cemetery. Lilly, a very good handling and flashy setter, cut left of the course and headed toward the road where she stopped at 5:00. Christopher, judge, and scout battled the briars to find Lilly standing on the edge of the field. Unfortunately, Lilly moved on the shot and she was done. Atom stopped shortly after in a seep at 7:00. Robbins verbally sent him on but Atom would not move. Robbins flushed but could not produce a bird. Atom was sent on and he stopped again, looking much more confident. However, Robbins still could not produce the bird. Robbins took Atom on and made the corner easily. Atom hunted the briars but could not find a bird. Robbins took him through the hardwoods where he handled with ease. However, Robbins wasn't happy how Atom was moving and picked him up at 57:00.

The last brace of the day included Wild Apple Spot On (Wheeler) and Stokely B Jack (Leitch). Both dogs raced down the trail and looked strong. Jack returned to Leitch and settled in. Spot showed strong legs early but checked in when needed. The dogs and handlers worked along the stream without activity until Jack had a stop to flush at 34:00. Spot crossed the road and stopped on the other side at 38:00. Wheeler got the bird to fly with all in order. Jack and Spot shot up the along the stream and made the turn back towards the field. Jack, coming from the hardwood hill on the left, stopped on the edge of the field at 42:00. As Leitch was making his way to his dog, Spot stopped

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dedication and tender loving care during Rudy's healing. Speaking of praise, how lucky they were to have such a gifted surgeon to treat Rudy— especially one with a heart big enough to make room for him in an already over-booked day! Thank you Dr. Robert Larocca and staff at the Animal Eye Specialty Center. Because of all of you, Rudy only lost about one third of his vision— that's a whole lot better than losing his eye.



Take a look at Shaye and her sweet pup Rudy NOW!!

Healthy, Happy, and Healed once again!

**→
(Continued next page)**

blisters and sores all over his arms. But what was even more serious was that Shaye's dog, Rudy got some of the sap into his eye. Initially it simply looked like Rudy may have gotten a seed in his eye, as field dogs sometimes do. But within a brief period of time, he became so frantic that they took him to their vet. By then a blister had developed in the eye and the dog was in serious pain. Their veterinarian did not want to even attempt to rinse the eye because of the potential for further damage. He medicated him liberally for pain and told them to contact a Veterinary Ophthalmologist immediately. There were two doctors with that specialty in the Twin Cities area. The first one that Tracy called couldn't offer an appointment for several weeks. Crossing her fingers and probably whispering a prayer, Tracy contacted the Animal Eye Specialty Center. Dr. Robert Larocca, the veterinary ophthalmologist at the Center was over-booked too, But, upon hearing the seriousness of Rudy's pain and condition, he adjusted his schedule and offered the Jacobsons a "before hours" 7:30 am appointment. The next morning they made the 90 minute drive to the Center. They had no idea what to expect but they knew that without help, Rudy would lose his eye.

Dr. Larocca examined Rudy and discovered he had a corneal rupture and a chemical burn. The dog would have no vision in the eye without a corneal transplant and the Jacobsons decided to go ahead. The surgery itself took about an hour. Rudy received a new corneal graft and also a second flap graft to hold it all in place. He spent the day at the hospital in sedation and once at home, required drops of antibiotics, steroids, and pain medication six times a day— every four hours around the clock. Shaye stepped in and administered the medications whenever she was not in school— and Tracy handled the remainder of the care. For six weeks Rudy wore a cone collar to prevent his touching or irritating the eye as it healed. As you can easily figure, this was a huge surgery— an expensive outlay of time and money. and it all began because he ran through some brush at the back of their property.

In dollars and cents, the surgery itself cost three grand. Couple that with follow up medications, visits and treatments added yet another thousand to the tab. Was it worth while? YES! Everyone was amazed by how well the eye healed; Dr. Larocca praised the Jacobsons for their

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on the right edge of the field at 43:00. Leitch walked at his dog and flew the woodcock over Jack's head. Jack marked the bird with his head but stayed put. Wheeler looked for Spot and found him buried in the briars. A woodcock quickly took flight. Spot, looking tired was sent on but faded even more at the end. Jack had a nice race and worked hard for Leitch but there wasn't any more bird work.

The second day of the IAWC included Higby Rilo (Ogilvie) and Long Gone Juicy (Murray) on Pine Top. Both dogs hunted and handled well early. When both bells were lost just before the field, a long search was conducted by both handlers. Neither dog could be located and the trackers were called for. Apparently the cover dogs turned to race track dogs and they were found at the bottom of the hill.

The brace between Chasehill Baby Bella and Bras Val Bearcat Laddie was reported earlier.

Wild Apple Calvados (Dellenger) and Little Miss Bella (Cavanaugh) had the first crack on the Bridge course. Both dogs would run well without any action. Brandy was picked up at 55:00. Bella would finish but she could not come up with a bird.

The Caird's Lefty and Stokes Willie B was reported earlier.

Snuff Mill Atalanta (Dellenger) shared the Cemetery course with Wild Apple Samantha (Keddy). Both dogs broke off and headed right for the briars. Their bells chimed as they worked their way through the thicket. Sam's bell stopped and the gallery could see her collar through the tangle. Allie continued to work in search of a bird. As Keddy battled his way to Sam, she became unsure and moved on. Keddy fought his way back out and the dogs were moved forward. Allie and Sam made their way through the Rhododendron and back to the briars without any action. Sam checked the green briars after they crossed the road but nothing was home. Allie took to the hardwoods with style but in the end, nothing was pointed.

Wizards Albannach Drummer (Hathaway) and Daddy's Little Boy Butch (Flewelling) had the last brace of the day. Butch reached out early burning up some extra energy. Drummer checked in and hunted as we worked down the trail. Flewelling brought butch forward at the turn and both dogs move up along the stream. Drummer would stop first to

the right of the course near a softwood clump at 27:00. Hathaway flushed the woodcock and all was in order. Butch stopped shortly after at 30:00 with Drummer honoring. Flewelling had a long flushing attempt and even tried to move Butch on but he wouldn't budge. Butch's had everyone connived he had a bird but try as he might, Flewelling could not produce a bird. Both dogs headed for the crossing. Drummer would stopped short of the crossing at 37:00 with Butch backing. Hathaway could not get a bird to fly so he sent Drummer on. Drummer moved up and stopped quickly. Hathaway, not thinking the bird was pinned sent Drummer on and the woodcock popped ending his run. Butch was taken across the road where he covered the ground. However, the birds where not home at the field and time would be called without any bird work.

Day three of the trial started out warm. First up was DC's Sadie (Cluney) and Long Gone Porky (Murray). The dogs hunted the thickets at the top without any luck. Both dogs headed down the hill with Porky stopping in the pine island at 22:00 with Sadie backing. Murray flushed all around but nothing was moved. Both handlers sent their dogs on and Porky would head up the hill where he briefly stopped. Murray went to him and seeing the dog was unsure, he whistled him on. Porky's would briefly stop again but continued on. A woodcock was seen leaving the tangle farther up the hill as Porky was headed in the opposite direction. Murray picked up at 35:00. Cluney and Sadie continued on along the stream with hopes of a doodle. The almost white pointer was snappy and worked her way along the course. At 40:00 Sadie stopped and while the judges thought she looked confident, Cluney knew his dog and sent her on. Sadie hunted but could not located a bird for her efforts.

Wild Apple Polka Dottie (Dellenger) was braced with Woodcock Haven Stella (Ogilvie). Both dog hit the Cemetery course in fine fashion heading for the briars. Dot and Stella made the sweep on the other side of the rock wall. Both dogs moved to the front and cut across the left side of the course along the field edge. Dottie would come out of the section and head forward, Stella started out of the section then locked up at 7:00 with in site of the course. Ogilvie walked in front and the

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Beware of Botanicals that can BURN and Blind!



If you enjoy working with your dogs in fields near your home, you need to be aware of a couple dangerous plants that may be growing there. Wild parsnip and giant hogweed are both very toxic and can produce a severe reaction. Both plants exude a sap that can cause severe burn blisters on exposed skin. Do your animals a favor and know how to identify each plant. These are two plants pet owners should be able to identify.

Most of us haven't the foggiest idea about the types of plants we encounter while hiking along a sunny trail or wandering through a field with a dog. Plants with pretty flowers seem safe and some people can't resist picking a bouquet as they walk. Even if you don't pick flowers, just walking through a patch of wild parsnip or giant hogweed can produce burns if your skin comes in contact with the sap. Pets are at risk if they run through a patch and get sap on their nose or in their eyes. The sap contains chemical compounds which will cause a reaction called *phytophotodermatitis* when the sap is absorbed into the skin. The chemicals are activated by ultraviolet light from the sun, (even on cloudy days) and break down skin tissue and cells causing burns and blistering within 24 to 48 hours. Sometimes a burned area of skin will turn dark red or brown and stay that way for up to two years. Sweating can speed up the absorption of the chemicals. Burns may appear in a splatter formation or streaks on the skin which indicates where a leaf or stem was dragged across the skin. If sap gets into the eyes, it can cause temporary or permanent blindness in humans and pets. It's also possible for the juice to work its way down to the skin of shorthaired dogs, and like poison ivy, if a dog or cat has sap on his coat he can transfer it to you if you pet him.

Club members Mike and Tracy Jacobson are well aware of that danger. Mike and his daughter Shaye often take their red setter dog out in the fields for hunting and training. They realized, after the fact, that "Wild Parsnips" were growing right in their own back yard. Without even knowing what he'd been exposed to or where-- Mike developed

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Al: Can you explain why you felt this was an important policy for the NRSFTC to implement?

Mike: You bet. As you know, Al, club representatives take questions from members and others interested in the Irish (Red) Setter on a regular basis. Sometimes, a dog buyer has expressed concerns that they suspect the Irish Setter puppy they purchased has been physically altered without their knowledge. In other cases, they question why the litter of pups they just bred doesn't resemble the physical characteristics of the puppy's parents. These issues are not unique to Irish Setters and happen in all breeds. These are out of the control of the club and are issues that need to be resolved between the breeder and the buyer. However, the majority of Board Members of the NRSFTC recognized that while you can learn a lot from reading a dog's pedigree, there is other valuable information that only a very few members of our club would have about specific breeding, or specific lines of breeding. The majority of Irish Setter enthusiasts just wouldn't have access to this level of information. The Board decided to implement a policy that would help make some of this information available about an individual dog so that a buyer or breeder could make their own decisions.

Al: OK, that makes sense. So how does the policy work?

Mike: It is pretty simple actually. As you know, one of the primary reasons to hold field trials is to evaluate the genetic potential of competitors to determine which animals are worthy of passing along their genes to the next generation. The policy implemented by the NRSFTC asks the owners or handlers of winning dogs born after January 1, 2018, if the dog has been physically altered, and if it has, to provide additional information about the alteration. The owner can decline to provide this information and there is no negative effect for not responding. Physically altered dogs are not penalized or prohibited from competing in NRSFTC sponsored field trials in any manner. The reporter of the field trial then documents the information given and it is now available for anyone to ask and have that information available as they evaluate their decision, whether it is what dog to breed to a particular dog or determining which puppy to buy. The NRSFTC Board hopes that this additional information will help to continue the Purest Challenge.

Al: Thanks Mike for these clarifications.

Mike; No problem, my pleasure.



woodcock flipped forward with all in order. Stella was taken back to the course and sent on. Dottie and Stella worked their way along the course and back into the briars without any excitement. The dogs crossed the road and started through the hardwoods. Dottie swung hard to the right and Dellenger had a hard time bringing her around. Dottie was picked up at the half. Stella ran the course but her legs weren't with her on this warm day. After getting a drink of water and a pat on the head by a hiker, she continued on. Time was called just before the road.

The final brace of the 2019 IAWC finished up on the Bridge course. Witch City Fred (Murray) was scratch due to injury which allowed Chasehill Hailey (Flewelling) to move up. Aint My Fault (Malone) and Chasehill Hailey broke away with Hailey stretching her legs from the get go. Ben ran a moderate race and handled well. Flewelling had to work harder for Hailey to make the corner back along the stream. Neither dog made game up to the crossing. Malone, not liking his dogs run, picked up at the half. Hailey continued on coming in and out of bell range. After Flewelling made the turn and was headed to the field, Hailey came in and got birdy. She would start and stop but never really locked up. She ended up getting too close to the bird and it popped at 48:00 ending her bid and the championship.

Special thanks to Russell Ogilvie and the International Woodcock Championship for sharing this trial report with us!



The handsome Champion on point in the field

Every entrant received this gorgeous bell



The American Woodcock



The more people come to know the woodcock, the more they appreciate this unique bird.



Naturalists seek out woodland openings in early spring to watch the acrobatic mating flights of male woodcock and to listen to the beautiful sounds they emit during their display flights and their intriguing ground calls. Some folks hunt woodcock in autumn, following flushing and pointing dogs while participating in a centuries-old

North American tradition. Others marvel at the bird's intriguing life history, which scientific research continues to reveal.

Taxonomy

The American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) is a shorebird that has evolved to live in upland settings, mainly in areas of dense young forest. Taxonomists place it in family *Scolopacidae*, a group of sandpipers with eighty-plus members distributed worldwide. A similar, larger species, the European woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), inhabits the British Isles and Europe.

Names and Appearance

Because of where it lives, its oddball looks, and its various behaviors, the American woodcock has earned a host of folk names including timberdoodle, night partridge, big-eye, bogsucker, and mudbat. The most commonly used name, woodcock, reflects the bird's preference for wooded areas.

A woodcock's plumage is an overall mottled russet and brown. The breast and sides are beige. Black bars run from side to side across the

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2019 Marks New Rules for NRSFTC Championships/Futurities

Al Fazenbaker: I've asked Mike Jacobson to join me here because I wanted to address a couple questions in regard to the club's disclosure policy on physical alteration of dogs. In the way of review, last year the NRSFTC board passed a resolution that beginning on January 1st 2019, owners of winning dogs at trials or championships will be asked if their dog has been physically (cosmetically) altered. Mike had made the resolution so I wanted him to explain to the membership the importance of getting this information. OK Mike?

Mike: Sure Al, I'm happy to provide any information you need, what are your questions?

Al: First, can you tell us what prompted your Motion to implement this policy.

Mike: I sure can. It is important to have a good understanding of the Purest Challenge that was started many, many decades ago. I'll give a brief description, but I would encourage everyone interested to do their own research and reading. A really good resource is a book called "The Purest Challenge" that can be ordered from the NRSFTC website. A group of gentlemen got together and decided that something needed to be done for the Irish Setter to save it. The hunting skills of the breed had deteriorated to an embarrassing level and these men set out to bring the Irish Setter back to its former ability and glory. They began a breeding program to reintroduce all of the qualities necessary to compete in a Shooting Dog Horseback Field Trial. Part of the process was to borrow genetic material from English Setters, which were outcrossed to the best Irish Setters available. The outcross breedings were permitted under the Field Dog Stud Book rules. After several generations of purebred Irish Setter breeding, these dogs could again be registered as purebred Irish Setters. Long story short, the Purest Challenge worked and we now have First Class Horseback Shooting Dog Field Trial Irish Setters, as well as Irish Setters that can compete at all levels of field trial competition. The critical part of the breeding program of the Purest Challenge is for a breeder to be able to properly evaluate the genetic potential and properties of an individual animal. It is extremely important to know the genetic traits of an animal to either enhance those genetic qualities or correct undesirable traits. Physically altering an animal masks its genetic make-up and makes it difficult for owners to make informed breeding decisions, especially if they had no idea that the animal was physically altered.

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10 Tips to find a Responsible and Reputable Breeder

- 🐾 The Breeder is a current paid member of the National Red Setter Field Trial Club—which honors “the Purest Challenge in Sportsdom.”
- 🐾 The Litter of pups SHOULD be nominated for the NRSFTC Futurity. Plan to run your dog in the Futurity when it’s 2 years of age!
- 🐾 The Litter should be registered with Field Dog Stud Book; “field” bred red setters are exceptional birddogs— and the American Field is the NRSFTC’s registry of choice. Register your dog with FDSB.
- 🐾 Ask your breeder for a copy of the club’s publication— *The Purest Challenge*. This useful pamphlet explains about our dogs, their history of restoration, and the importance of careful breeding selection.
- 🐾 Inquire if the puppies have been cosmetically altered. The NRSFTC conformation standard does not condone tail docking or other unnecessary cosmetic procedures. Cosmetic issues are best prevented by careful selective breeding programs.
- 🐾 Your breeder should provide health records indicating what immunizations, worming and other procedures were accomplished.
- 🐾 Pedigrees are interesting to study but nothing takes the place of visiting the kennel in person. If potential buyers are able, visit the facility and see for yourself that the premises clean, odor-free, and the puppies appear to be well cared for and properly socialized. How do the dogs interact with the breeder — and with strangers? Both dogs and puppies should not shy away from the breeder and should be outgoing with strangers.
- 🐾 Never purchase a puppy from pet stores or retail merchants who sell puppies. Most of those animals come from a “puppy mill” environment. Such facilities are untrustworthy in their care and accommodation of the animals.
- 🐾 Don’t make assumptions about your agreement with the breeder. Although verbal agreements are usually satisfactory, a contractual arrangement leaves nothing to chance. It’s better for both sides (buyer/breeder) to understand exactly what is expected of each party and have it clarified from the start.
- 🐾 Finally, remember that breeders come in a wide variety of personality types. As you meet breeders, look for someone whose thinking seems pretty much in line with your own. Remember, your breeder will not only sell you a dog, but will also be a good resource and friend to your family! Great friendships often begin with dogs!

forehead and crown. The short tail is brick red and black, tipped with pale gray spots. A woodcock’s color and markings help it blend in with the leaf litter and other debris covering the ground in its preferred young-forest habitat.

An adult woodcock is 10 to 12 inches long, stands 5 inches tall, and has a wingspan of about 20 inches. The body is chunky, the neck is short, and the head appears large in relation to the rest of the bird. The wings are fairly short and rounded. Females, also known as hens, are larger than males: females weigh 7.6 ounces, on average, and males weigh 6.2 ounces. The female’s bill is 2.75 inches long or slightly longer, while the male’s bill is generally less than 2.5 inches long.

The large, dark eyes are set well back and high on the sides of the head: This positioning lets a woodcock watch for danger in all directions - behind, above, and to the sides, as well as straight ahead.

Behavior

On the ground, woodcock mainly walk about, although they can scuttle along fairly rapidly where the cover permits it. When a woodcock flushes from the ground, air passing through the outer wing feathers produces a whistling or twittering sound. If a woodcock takes off from brush, it will dodge between limbs and branches until it gets in the clear, then level off and fly from 10 to several hundred yards before setting down again.

Food

When feeding, a woodcock probes with its bill into soft soil. Sensitive nerve endings in the lower third of the bill help the bird locate earthworms, its favorite prey. The woodcock is able to open the foremost third of its upper bill, or mandible, while the bill is sunk in the ground, helping it to seize worms and pull them from their burrows. The woodcock’s long tongue and the underside of the mandible are rough-surfaced for securing slippery prey.

Earthworms, high in fat and protein, typically make up about three-quarters of a timberdoodle’s diet. Woodcock also eat ants, flies, beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, and various insect larvae, along with



snails, millipedes, centipedes, and spiders. An adult woodcock can consume more than its own weight in animal food daily. At times, woodcock may eat seeds of grasses, sedges, and weeds.

Migration

Woodcock migrate back and forth between northern breeding areas and southern wintering grounds. In spring and summer, they breed in the North, from Atlantic Canada west to the Great Lakes area. In autumn they fly to lowlands from the Carolinas west to eastern Texas, with the greatest concentration of birds wintering in Louisiana and Mississippi. Woodcock migrate north again in February, March, and April, homing to the same areas where they were hatched.

When migrating, woodcock fly at low altitudes, usually around 50 feet. They travel by night. At dawn, they set down in thick young forest habitat, where they rest and feed during the daylight hours. Woodcock migrate singly or in loose flocks of several birds. They generally cover 20 to 50 miles per night, although some individuals may move 300 miles in a single night.

Breeding

In the spring, males establish individual territories known as singing grounds: clearings in brush lands and young forest. Log landings, pasture edges, old fields, and the edges of woods roads and country lanes are prime sites. Singing grounds vary in size, but a quarter acre seems to be adequate. After claiming a singing ground, a male may drive off other males by flying at them while cackling loudly.

Woodcock court in the dim light of evening and dawn. While on the ground, the male repeats a nasal, buzzing call most often represented as peent. After peenting for a minute or so, the male takes off and flies upward until he is 100 to 300 feet in the air. He pauses and hovers in a circle for perhaps half a minute. Then he comes spiraling or zigzagging back down, singing a liquid, warbling pee chuck tee chuck chip chip chip chip. After landing on the ground, he resumes peenting.


In the evening, males may sing and fly for half an hour or longer, and when the moon is bright they may carry on through the night. Females seek out males on the singing grounds. During the breeding season,

(Continued on page 23)

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R	B	R	I	D	L	E	M	A	K	R	H	R	E	S
E	N	O	D	R	O	G	H	T	H	E	A	E	E	H
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I	P	N	E	N	G	O	D	T	R	O	P	S	Z	A
D	O	G	D	I	S	H	A	L	L	A	G	E	Q	Z



Good Luck!
Cross out the words and use the remaining letters to solve your puzzle—you might have an extra few letters by the end, but by then, you'll already be done!



ALL AGE BITCH BREEDER BRIDLE BRITTANY DOGDISH ENGLISH	GORDON HARNESS IRISH LAUNCHERS NEUTER PHEASANTS POINTER	PURINA RAINGEAR REDSETTER SCABBARD SHORTHAIR SIRE SPORTDOG	CHAMPIONSHIP CHECKCORD RESPONSIBLE SHOOTINGDOG VACCINES WEIMARANER
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↓	Olivia Newton John
	Rock Hudson
	Keith Richards
	Bob Cummings
	Clark Cable
	Stan Laurel
	President Nixon
	Gwyneth Paltrow
	President Roosevelt Portrait



one male may mate with several females. Most breeding takes place from late February or early March into early May.

Nesting

A hen usually nests within 150 yards of the singing ground where she mated. The male plays no role in selecting a nest site, incubating eggs, or rearing young. Favored nesting habitats include brushy woods near water, lightly wooded hillsides above moist bottomlands, old fields with low ground cover, and shrub thickets.



Hens start nesting in March, making woodcock perhaps the earliest nesters of all ground-nesting birds in North America. The nest is a slight depression on the ground in dead leaves.

The eggs, usually four, are about 1 by 1/2 inches. They are well camouflaged: colored pinkish buff to cinnamon and covered with light brown blotches overlaid with darker speckles. Incubation starts with the final egg laid and lasts 19 to 22 days. If disturbed during the early part of her incubation period, the hen may abandon the nest. The longer she sits on the eggs, the less apt she is to desert them: toward the end of her setting she may hold tight even when touched by a human hand.

Dogs, cats, skunks, opossums, raccoons, foxes, ravens, crows, and snakes are among the predators that may catch and eat hens or eat the eggs. Hens that lose their first clutch may reneest, generally laying only three eggs the second time around. The eggs hatch from early April into mid-June.

Hatchlings

Woodcock eggs split lengthwise, unique among birds. Chicks are precocial - well-enough developed that they can leave the nest only a few hours after hatching. They are covered with down, pale brownish or buff in color and broken up with darker spots and stripes in a camouflaging pattern. Chicks will freeze when a predator threatens or in response to their mother's alarm call. The hen broods her young

frequently, settling her body over them to shield them from rain and cold.

Although woodcock hens nest singly, they may share feeding areas with other hens and broods. At first, a hen finds food for her young, but after a few days the chicks feed themselves.

After two weeks the young can fly short distances, and at the end of four weeks they are almost fully grown, fly strongly, and look like adults. The family breaks up when the young are six to eight weeks old.

Life Expectancy

If a woodcock reaches adulthood, its life expectancy is about 1.8 years; banded birds up to 7 years old have been recovered. Woodcock are hardy, and seem able to heal following injuries that would kill most other birds. Woodcock perish from accidents, many of which happen during nighttime flying. Predators seize them, including hawks, owls, and weasels. Some woodcock die during bad weather, when individuals returning north in spring get caught by snowstorms and hard freezes that seal off their food sources.

Hunters harvest around 1.1 million woodcock each year, placing the American woodcock among the top ten species of migratory game birds taken in the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways.

Over the last 50 years, the woodcock's population has fallen. Scientists, conservationists, and habitat managers are working to reverse that trend by creating young forest in regional habitat initiatives set up across the woodcock's range. You can help restore the woodcock population by supporting these initiatives. Join your local Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society. This exceptional group strives to preserve our sporting traditions by creating healthy forests for ruffed grouse and American woodcock. RGS biologists work with private landowners and state and federal agencies to improve lands for grouse, woodcock, and other wildlife that need similar habitats. Contact the Rough Grouse Society to learn what YOU can do to make a difference.



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