

handler. The dogs are expected to show forward searching for any piece of cover that may hold a bird. Not all of the country is big, the hills and pole timber lead to cuts and thickets of pine, black birch, blueberries and beech. Upon reaching the cover hard driving canines are expected to hunt briskly, make their mark, or move on to the next cover for another look. The birds are there but not easily presenting, making the task ever more difficult.

Inclement weather plays a key role with the birds as well. This renewal proved no different, starting off with sunny and pleasant weather which time and again bodes ill for bird-finding. But before long Mother Nature took a turn for the worse and the birds presented themselves. Clouds rolled in the third day and rain arrived the fourth with spells of high winds and drenching downpours. Then again Mother Nature changed direction and the back side of the storm provided opportunities on grouse again.

THE WINNERS

[Due to the lapses between braces with definitive bird work, the reporter did not have a lot of notes to work with and chose to bypass a brace-by-brace review of the trial. An account of the winning performances follows.]

Thunderhills Zeus rose to the occasion on Loleta No. 4 just before the

storm. I think he may have stirred it up! His pace never let down across the hills and through the pole timber. Upon his first intake of cover Zeus went to work pointing at 17 after a brief bit of confusion with his bracedmate's bell. With a bird quickly flushed and all in order, handler Brenneman collared his charge away only to turn him loose into a find 10 yards from his restart! The dog was again collared away and released and his gait opened hard and exciting but yet another bird froze him into granite a few short moments later. Again all was in order and consecutive finds were in the book at 17, 20 and 23. Off for another restart and into the pole timber the multiple champion began putting on a show. The open pole timber of Loleta course No. 4 served Zeus well as he filled up the course, as that of a horseback dog, handling effortlessly while going to the limits. Zeus hit the cut on the back corner of the course at 36 and carded his fourth class forward find at 40 with a grouse thundering straight up for the gallery! Nothing was going to stop him now and his veteran handler knew it. Brenneman let Zeus fly through the open country and into the blueberry thickets ending this course as he finished far reaching and forward. At time Zeus was gathered up with little effort coming into the handler and almost seeming to say, "Top that one boys."

After the rain and the storm front blew through, Pine Straw Katydid earned runner-up for first time handler Mike Reeves. Running in the final brace of the stake she hit course No. 1 on Lamona-ville with a hard driving gait and hunted consistently her entire hour, although not as consistently forward as the winner. At 35 she made a quick move to the left of course around her bracedmate which was making game to the right. About 70 yards to the front of her bracedmate's action she quickly made game and smartly pinned a grouse just off the path with all in order. Taken on she continued her hard drive, lateral and clinging a few times but coming on her own. As the course expired time still remained and the judges instructed both handlers to head to the left into the pine stands between courses No. 1 and No. 2. As time was called Mr. Reeves found Katy with a pair of grouse pinned under what must have been the very last pine tree on this patch. Proving she never gave up she surely left her owner with a smile.

**Marienville, Pa., November 13 — One Course
Judges: Joe Collura and Matt Mentz
NATIONAL AMATEUR GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] — 68 Entries**

Winner—THUNDERHILLS ZEUS, 1571282, pointer male, by Beaver Meadow Benjamin—Honey Go Lightly, Harry Tsepelias, owner; Richard Brenneman, handler.
Runner-Up—PINE STRAW KATYDID, 1595312, setter female, by Chip's Uncle Buzzie—Sky's Blue Belle, Michael Reeves, owner and handler.

Brandywine Bird Dog Club

By BILL BRUCHEY

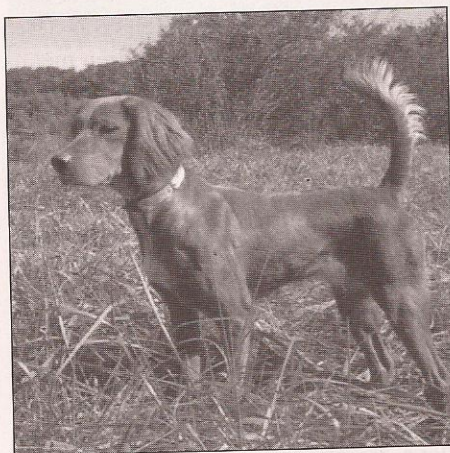
THE Brandywine Bird Dog Club continues to hold its field trial at the estate of Mrs. John B. Hannum on a semi-annual basis. This yearly schedule has been occurring on these grounds continuously because Mrs. Hannum has graciously made her estate available to the Brandywine Club for the last forty years.

This year (2010) saw the first change in the courses in decades. The grounds on the far side of the creek on the back course were no longer available. This required laying out a new course which ended up being a modified figure eight. For some of the dogs that had run the old course over the years, it required the handlers to take charge and keep dogs from following the old back course. The club owes many thanks to George Ekdahl and Gene Thomas for their efforts in successfully laying out a new course to accommodate the loss of ground.

For this scribe the weather has always been a factor in this trial. Usually comments revolve around rain, heat and

humidity and how it affected both dogs and handlers. For once weather was not an issue. The club was blessed with gorgeous weather, ideal for both dogs and handlers. No excuses this year.

Field trialers can often be described as "fillers". That's one reason why the



REDSTONE
First in the Amateur Shooting Dog Stake

game has endured. This trial was just such an example. Scheduling conflicts this year prevented the usual presence of many professional handlers. Many thanks to professional handler Jeanette Tracy for making time in her busy schedule for the Open stakes as always. Her support has always been welcome and helped ensure a successful trial.

Also many thanks to the "fillers": Merv Eisenhart, Dom Preite, Gene Thomas, Jim Wilkinson, Steve Henriksen and Roger Boser. Their entries in the Open stakes filled out the drawing and helped make the trial a success. Without their support Jeanette would have been running against herself all day.

The club would like to thank the judges for their greatly approved decisions.

The Friday night tailgate party was very well attended. It was a little cold but all enjoyed themselves. Thanks to our chef Becky Johnson and all who brought their favorite side dishes.

OPEN STAKES

The Open stakes were under the watchful eyes of judges Steve Gruber and Connie Riley. Open Shooting Dog winner Peace Dale Scooter justly

deserved his placement for Gene Thomas. There is an old saying: "You've got to go out on a limb sometimes because that's where the fruit is."

Scooter was certainly out there hanging and looking for fruit. Hanging on a limb is always exciting but when you actually grab the fruit without falling, it is even better. This setter knocked the second and third place dogs down a notch by the time he was finished. He started strong, had a find early, moving from the early bottom of the course to the bean field where he stylishly backed his bracemate. Moving on, he had his second find at the quarter mark, all in good order. At the distant midpoint of the course he had No. 3. On release he showed a strong, forward, edge-grabbing move that finally brought him to the three-quarter point of the course and his last find which was handled in fine order.

White Spider, second, had her first find at the bean field. Her second find came at the back field hedgerow, everything in order. Third was Archers Black Powder, again with Gene Thomas at the helm. "Kip" had his first find at the course bottom just after the breakaway. His second find came in the large hay field at the center of the course and was quickly followed by another find along the woods edge on his journey to the far end of the course. His bird work was flawless. His last find came on the back course in the large hay field.

The Open Derby winner was The Thrill is Gone, pointer female which displayed a great forward race and four



Open Shooting Dog Winners. From left: Keith Thomas with Peace Dale Scooter, Jeanette Tracy with White Spider and Eugene Thomas with Archers Black Powder.

nice finds showing the potential of a highly competitive shooting dog. Chisled In Stone had all the same qualities on her two finds but with a more medium race. She Got Game, third, did a nice job on her three bird finds but with a shorter race than the top two finishers.

The Puppy Stake was small, four entries. Garnering top honors was Covey Up Woodie for Keith Thomas. He bested his competitors with a nice shooting dog race. He handled the course in a well controlled and pleasing manner for Keith Thomas. Covey Up Nate was the bigger running of the pair of Thomas entries, but was not up to the standards set by the winner.

Unionville, Pa., October 30 — One Course

Judges: Steve Gruber and Connie Riley

OPEN SHOOTING DOG — 17 Entries

1st—PEACE DALE SCOOTER, 1585944, setter male, by Taz—Pine Hill Pearl. Maggie Strausbaugh, owner; Eugene Thomas, handler.

2d—WHITE SPIDER, 1580719, setter female, by The Welshman—Harness Wind. R. B. Powell, owner; Jeanette Tracy, handler.

3d—ARCHERS BLACK POWDER, 1578464, pointer male, by Covey Up Johnny—Maple Valley Starlight. Elizabeth Archer, owner; Eugene Thomas, handler.

OPEN DERBY — 9 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—THE THRILL IS GONE, 1621870, pointer female, by Calico's Thrillology—Congresswomen. Harry Blaine, owner; Jeanette Tracy, handler.

2d—CHISLED IN STONE, 1621999, pointer female, by Stone Free—Enhancement Tess. Joe McHugh, owner; Jeanette Tracy, handler.

3d—SHE GOT GAME, 1620436, pointer female, by Calico's Thrillology—Congresswomen. Becky Johnson, owner; Jeanette Tracy, handler.

Judges: Mervin Eisenhart and Greg Strausbaugh

OPEN PUPPY — 3 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—COVEY UP WOODIE, 1623693, pointer male, by Great River Dominator—Ladywood's Pippi. Eugene & Keith Thomas, owners; Keith Thomas, handler.

2d—COVEY UP NATE, 1623692, pointer male, by Great River Dominator—Ladywood's Pippi. Keith & Eugene Thomas, owners; Keith Thomas, handler.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG STAKE

On any given day a number of performances could have been in the ribbons. On this day Redstone, Smokin Hot Trouble and Sue Z set the standard.

Redstone topped the list with a strong forward race, hunting the edges and hitting all the likely birdy spots. He was rewarded with five stylish finds. Trouble challenged for the blue for most of his allotted time. He had four finds, one divided, and an unproductive. His edge running abilities rivaled Redstone's for the first three-quarters of the course but he got off the edges a bit during his last quarter. Sue Z ran a wide class shooting dog race. She had her first find at mid-course and her second on the back course and finished strong.

The club thanks everyone who helped with all kinds of duties. Without all of you there would not be a good trial.

Judges: Donald D. Kerr and Kevin Stuart

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG — 28 Entries

1st—REDSTONE, 1611023, Irish setter female, by Breakstone—Applebee. Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

2d—SMOKIN HOT TROUBLE, 1591687, pointer male, by Bulltown—Impressive Lady Sue. Roger Dvorak, owner and handler.

3d—BLUEBELL SUE Z, 1551395, setter female, by Bluebell Sluggo—Grouse Ridge Judi. George Mamounis, owner and handler.



Open Derby Winners. From front left: Jeanette Tracy with The Thrill is Gone, Shannon with Chisled In Stone, Dillon with She Got Game. Standing: Harry Blaine, Gene Thomas, Barb, Greg Strausbaugh and Merv Eisenhart.