

Futurity Winners. In foreground, from left: Backcountry Sid The Kid with Chris Catanzarite, Shady Hills Billie Too with Marc Forman and Swank's Cello with Dave Hughes. Behind: Nina Catanzarite, Bob Grassi, Russ Richardson, judge; Roger McPherson, Steve Swauger, judge, and Rollin Swank.

National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity

By GEORGE CRUMLICH

THE McDonald Sportsmen Association once again hosted the National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity for its 22nd renewal. The trial went off without a hitch with the help of everyone involved.

Outgoing Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Crum was on hand to get the dogs on the line, make sure the judges were fed and all the other intricacies that allow for a smooth trial. This will be Jeff's last year in this position due to work and family commitments. His involvement will be missed. Before the announcements his years of service were recognized by a hearty round of applause from everyone in attendance.

Incoming Secretary/Treasurer Roger McPherson was also on hand to announce the braces and help out wherever he could. Roger also provided mounts for the judges.

Pennsylvania Walking Shooting Dog Association President Joe Cammisa was on hand to collect entries and ferried dogs back and forth with the help of Al McKinney. Jeff Angott and Doug McMillen provided help in the bird planting department.

Judges for this event were Steve Swauger of Reynoldsville, Pa., and Russ Richardson of Guys Mills, Pa. Both men have a wealth of bird dog experience and knew what they were looking at. They gave each dog their undivided attention with no idle chitchat to deter from the task at hand. Their decisions were well received.

Last, but certainly not least, the very generous support of Purina must be

commended, along with that of representative Pat Lamantia.

These grounds allow a judge to see a dog, making class and range high priorities in selecting the winners.

Spring had sprung early this year in much of Pennsylvania, however, and McDonald was no exception posing difficult conditions for many a young dog. The spring foliage provided a change of landscape that seemed to affect scenting conditions with more dogs going birdless than in recent years. Add to that the nesting killdeer and larks that would swoop down enticing many a dog to provide a merry chase either behind or far off course.

The Futurity drew 27 dogs from 34 eligible litters; 25 contenders came to the line. There was a strong field with 10 of the 27 dogs having placed in Futurity competitions earlier in the season. Many others were names familiar from the pages of *The AMERICAN FIELD*. Professionals Dave Hughes, Marc and Scott Forman and Garry Malzone brought some of the best young dogs on their strings.

THE WINNERS

This Futurity strives to identify dogs that can go on to win walking shooting dog stakes. The winners this year certainly seem to fit the bill.

Backcountry Sid the Kid emerged victorious from the 10th brace. Those in attendance knew that after this brace a new bar had been set that would prove to be unequalled. This well built pointer was bred by Frank Joyal of Fairfax, Vt., and is owned and handled by Chris

Catanzarite of Scenery Hill, Pa. Right off the breakaway Sid proved his manners with a stylish back of his brace-mate's barren stand. From there Sid went bird hunting in a merry fashion and always forward. His four finds (one divided) were more than any other dog in the stake and he did it with advanced manners and high style. His race filled the country but was coupled with the cooperation needed for the walking handler.

This win also showed Sid's versatility as he had placed in the National (horseback) Shooting Dog Futurity under the whistle of Mike Tracy in October, 2011.

In the 9th brace, Marc Forman handled Shady Hills Billie Too to the second spot. Billie is a very appealing young setter. He was fast, fleet footed and his tail cracked in high style every step of the way. Billie had two well spaced finds with loftiness, tail ramrod straight.

This was Billie's second Futurity placement as well, having placed in the International Cover Dog Futurity the week before. The breeder of record is Robert Grassi of Washington, Pa., who was in attendance. Mike Cooper of Spencer, Ohio is Billie's owner.

The third place dog gave something to strive for in the 4th brace. Swank's Cello was handled by Dave Hughes and is owned by Rollin Swank of Graysville, Pa., who walked the brace. This setter female grabbed your attention with every stride. She ran with much animation and handled kindly while hunting

the country. At 20 she connected right of course showing breathtaking style. A wet bird proved to be a little too much temptation at the flush but Cello showed acceptable Derby manners. Those who follow the circuit closely felt this was a well deserved win as Cello had been knocking on the door in several large Derby stakes recently. Kevin Klein is the breeder of record.

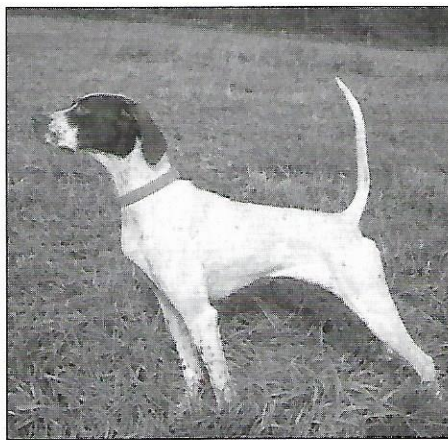
The final placement went to A Carolina Shadow for handler-breeder Garry Malzone. Joe, as he is called, ran a huge race with his rough handle at times being one of the separators. Shortly into the brace Joe stopped in a known bird location but unfortunately the bird could not be produced on this stand. Sent on Joe opened back up, pointing on hillside far to the front. Malzone hurried to the find, still taking several minutes to arrive nonetheless. Joe held, however, showing advanced manners at the flight. Sent on he had one more stop left of course correcting on his own and finishing to the front. John Roswech of Chester, N. J., is the owner of record.

Other dogs with commendable performances: Freezeway and Pine Straw Blackhawk. Grouse River Black Jack also had the judges sitting high in the saddle but failed to connect with game.

**McDonald, Pa., April 21 — One Course
Judges: Russ Richardson and Steve Swanger
TWENTY-SECOND NATIONAL WALKING
SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY —**

5 Pointers, 21 Setters and 1 Irish Setter

- 1st—BACKCOUNTRY SID THE KID, 1622094, pointer male, by Serious Threat—Mackenzie. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.
2d—SHADY HILLS BILLIE TOO, 1621549, setter male, by Serious Threat—Mackenzie. Chris Catanzarite, owner; Marc Forman, handler.
3d—SWANK'S CELLO, 1620144, setter female, by Long Gone Buckwheat—Texas Copper Top. R. N. Swank, owner; Dave Hughes, handler.
4th—A CAROLINA SHADOW, 1622817, pointer male, by Numark Go Boy—Chasing Joe's Shadow. John Roswech, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.



BACKCOUNTRY SID THE KID
First in the National Shooting Dog
Futurity

COMPANION STAKES

Eight exuberant youngsters came to the line in the Open Puppy under the watchful eyes of Mark Hughes and Tim Cammisa. These grounds can be a little daunting for some pups but not the three winners. Finding the winners' circle before the Futurity even started Chris Catanzarite took first and third with his littermates Backcountry Penny and Backcountry Tornado. They both showed the potential in the range, style and handling department. It was a good weekend for Chris.

Splitting the littermates was the well built pointer female K G B for handler Al McKinney. She runs with a powerful stride and plenty of class.

With Al McKinney and Jeff Angott in the judicial saddles for the Open Shooting Dog, one handler took two spots. Dave Blakley of Sykesville, Pa., took home the blue with Timberdoodle Hobo which filled the country with style and range. Showing polished manners on his game this young shooting dog shows he has a bright future.

Flushing Whip Roger Ramjet snuck in between Dave's two dogs. This well built red setter showed his easy going stride and class to catch the judges' eyes. His breathtaking style and intensity on game didn't hurt either. Timberdoodle Princess wrapped up the final spot for Dave Blakley. This classy setter female showed plenty of ability in the bird-finding department but on this day she did not exhibit her normal range.

**Judges: Tim Cammisa and Mark Hughes
GENE UHLMAN PUPPY CLASSIC —
4 Pointers and 3 Setters**

- 1st—BACKCOUNTRY PENNY, 1629922, pointer female, by Mac's Silver Dollar—Backcountry Dolly. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.
2d—K G B, 1642572, pointer female, by Smoking Hot Trouble—Prison Break Penny. A. J. McKinney, owner and handler.
3d—BACKCOUNTRY TORNADO, 1629924, pointer female, by Mac's Silver Dollar—Backcountry Dolly. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

**Judges: Jeff Angott and Al McKinney
OPEN SHOOTING DOG — 4 Pointers, 9 Setters,
1 Brittany and 2 Irish Setters**

- 1st—TIMBERDOODLE HOBO, 1622640, setter male, by Springfield's Orvis—Timberdoodle Ohso Bad. Dave Blakley, owner and handler.
2d—FLUSHING WHIP ROGER RAMJET, 1595852, Irish setter male, by Breakstone—Flushing Whip Flash Edition. Allen Fazenbaker, owner and handler.
3d—TIMBERDOODLE PRINCESS, 1591335, setter female, by Shady Hills Billy—Timberdoodle Ohso Bad. Dave Blakley, owner and handler.

Pennsylvania Grouse Trial Club

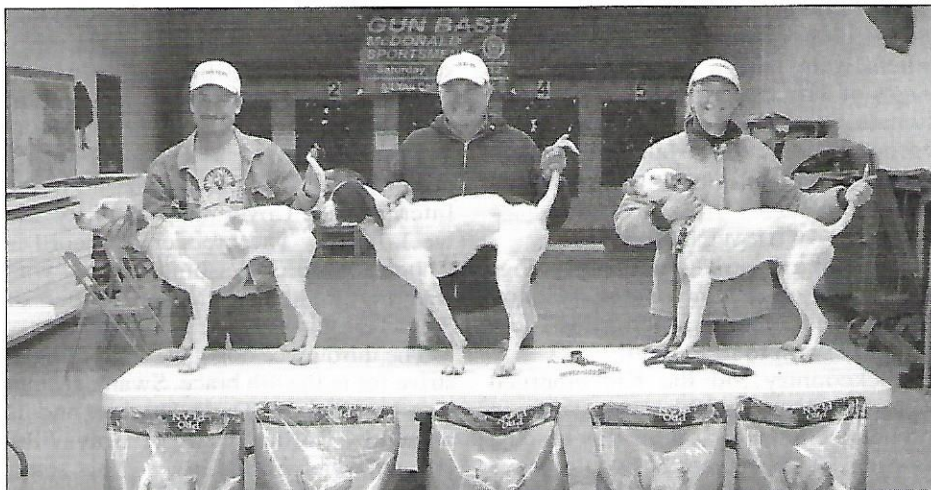
By JEFF CRUM

THIS year's spring trial was moved up a day to accommodate handlers and judges so they could be home for the Easter holiday, and was run immediately following the Grand National Grouse Invitational Championship held on the same grounds just outside of Marienville, Pa.

As has been the case for the past couple of decades Richard and Helen Brenneman run the trial like a finely tuned Swiss clock. They were graciously aided by George Johnson and the majority of the other participants.

Running two multiple course stakes at the same time is no easy accomplishment. The All-Age Stake was held along Lamonville Road where the cover is heavier for this area and the courses have a few more turns. The National Grouse Derby was held along Loleta Road where there is more open pole timber that allows a dog to really stretch out if it wants to show well and hunt to the more likely grouse cover.

Bringing a true brightness to the weekend was a guest appearance from Bob Grassi. The "Grasman" was just out of the hospital but had everyone laughing with his humor and in admiration of his strength of spirit.



Puppy Winners. From left: Chris Catanzarite with Backcountry Penny, Al McKinney with K G B and Nina Catanzarite with Backcountry Tornado.