



Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame 2016 Inductions

Grand Junction, TN

By: Diana Kubitz

© We had looked forward to our 2016 trip to Grand Junction with great anticipation and we were not disappointed. Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame (BTFHF) board members along with Tom & Gretchen Burroughs work on Thursday and Friday prior to the induction ceremony on Saturday. We make sure our wing at the museum is shipshape for all the visitors that will be visiting during the induction ceremonies. Thank you

Mary Crawford, Gary and I were treated to a guided tour of the Ames Plantation by Delmar Smith. Delmar's history with the Ames dates back to his childhood when his father talked to him about breeding cattle. Bird dogs came much later, but Delmar is familiar with everything about Ames and its rich history. My favorite part of the tour was a trip inside the gorgeous brick barn where we saw old buggies and even a dog wagon used in the early days of running bird dogs on the plantation. It was a step back in time and we enjoyed every minute. It will be a memory to last a lifetime. Thanks, Delmar!

On Saturday, prior to our afternoon ceremonies, we were all treated to a buffet lunch by Purina. It was excellent food as usual and I got to meet the gentlemen that are taking Bob West's and Pat Lamantia's places since they have retired. Looks like Purina will continue to take great care of the "dog people" and we thank them for their continued support of our wonderful sport! Thanks also to Garmin and the other sponsors who helped make 2015 a banner year supporting dog events!

Rick Smith conceived the idea of the "Road to Ames" raffle to raise money for the museum. Each breed's endowment fund was credited with the monies from their ticket sales. The new roof on the entire museum is in place and looks great. It came as no surprise to me that the Brittany support



Mr. Leverich and Family



Mr. Leverich Speaking



Mr. Leverich, his son, Rick Smith and Lisa Pollack



Faye Walker Plaque Jimmy Johnson and Diana Kubitz



Rick Smith accepting for Tom Smith, his brother



Tom & Brenda Milam, Dr. Bob Rankin, Margaret Horstmeyer, Darrell and Shelly Smith



Tom and Judy Robin Lane's End Bowtie Annie

of this project eclipsed all of the other breeds. I think the total raised by the Brittany folks alone was over \$15,000! Thanks to everyone who supported this endeavor! We couldn't do it without you the Brittany owners that care.

I have a special thank you to David Fletcher of Morrice, MI who provides the plaques for the Bird Dog Museum. David has worked tirelessly as a director of the organization for many years and his contributions are many. Plaques were presented for Lucille Sawicki, Fay Walker, Ruth McGee, John Kline and Bob Burchett. John's plaque was presented to his family at a trial near them and the same held true for Bob. Bob Burchett's plaque is an example of a group of people gathering together to honor him while he's still living and I think we should see a lot more of this type of honor. While the family appreciates the Memorium, how much nicer to know you were honored in this way.

Our BFTHF inductees for 2016 were presented their scrolls by our President, Rick Smith. We were fortunate this year to have some very worthy distinguished persons who were all in attendance, Jim Leverich and Tom Milam; and Tom and Judy Robin, owners of a most deserving dog, Lane's End Bowtie Annie.

5XCh, 3X RU CH, FC, AFC Lane's End Bowtie Annie. Annie was a "heart" dog for Tom and Judy and they saw her potential at a very early age. Annie's ground speed was impressive and she had an easy gait that covered ground. Sometimes she was a little too smart for her own good, but she was always a joy. She had 59 field placements with 21 1sts, 15 all age hour placements with 6 1sts. She was a two time winner of the International Championship, 2 X winner and 1 X runner-up of the Mid-South Championship, winner of the ABC Quail Championship and placed 2nd or 3rd in 9 other hour stakes. She was 4th in lifetime Purina Award points for females and ranked in the top 14 dogs from 2000 to 2005. Because of her field trial schedule Annie only had two litters, but they were dandies! She produced 8 hour winners with 52 total hour wins, NAC who also took RU in the national all age championship the same year and 4th in the NAC two years later, 1 RU National Field Champion, 4 AFC (15 Championships) and 3 RU AFCs (11 Ru Championships), 9 FC's, 1 OTCH Obedience Winner and 13 Field Winners (over 200 total placements). As a grand-dam Annie had 4 hour winners (21 total wins), 4 FC's, 3 AFC's, 2 CH, and 8 field winners with well over 100 total placements. Our sincere congratulations to Tom and Judy on the induction of their beloved Annie!

Jim Leverich. Jim grew up 93 years ago in Wisconsin. He became an Air Force Flight Instructor in Texas during WWII and became a fan of hunting on the Swenson Ranch. He trained his first dog himself, but realized the dog would not be competitive in trials. Jim purchased a bitch from Gerald Price in Kansas but he had to promise he would run her in trials. That bitch turned out to be HOF Way Kan Jill! Jill was with Harve Butler as a derby dog, but soon went to Delmar Smith. Jim was one of the founding fathers of the U S Open Brittany Championship, started the Top O' Texas club and served as President with his wife as Field Trial Secretary for almost 20 years. He secured grounds that had 6 one hour courses and helped improve the grounds in return for running trials. Jim judged many regional trials and championships for all breeds

both AKC and American Field. These experiences helped him develop a good eye for being a great breeder. A secret for over 40 years, at Jim's request, was his sponsorship of the Texas Open Brittany Championship Rotating Trophy around 1971. It's called "The Way Kan Jill Memorial Trophy." Jim secured steel pipe and helped put up the corrals at the Ardmore grounds and those corrals are still there today. He was one of the pioneers of the Southwest Brittany field trial history and excelled in every facet of his life always giving 200% of his energy. Thanks Jim for all you have done for the field trial world and Brittanys! It was wonderful to get a chance to meet you at last.

Tom Milam. Tom has been dedicated to field trialing for over 25 years and hunted with birddogs most of his life. He has generously given his time and knowledge to our trialers, supported regional clubs and national events, improved grounds and accepted judging assignments all over the country. Tom served as an ABC director for 10 years, 1st VP 7 yrs., has served on the all age championship committees since 1997, and served as stakes manager and course marshal for the ABC national championships, the Oklahoma Amateur and Cecil Proctor OAA Championships. He has been a director of Regions 7 and 8, AFTCA 19 yrs. and is in his 2nd term as the 2nd VP of the Oklahoma Field Trial Clubs Association. He serves as VP for the Northern Oklahoma Brittany Club, Sooner Brittany Club and West Texas Brittany Club. Twelve years ago he proposed that Northern Oklahoma form the Region 8 Amateur All Brittany Championship, THE DUB EMDE CHALLENGE that continues to run today. Tom is in constant demand as a judge for all pointing breeds. He's judged all over the country and his credentials include many championships including his recent stint at judging the AKC Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championship held in Grand Junction. He's had several winning dogs: Spring Valley Bandit (Mark Appleton), TLM Colorado Sadie, TLM Commanche Chief, TLM-Co-pilot, just to name a few. Tom encourages newcomers and considers his best convert to be Harlan Gerady who sold him half interest in TLM Frequent Flyer (Jack). Harlan scouted when Tom ran Jack in the 2014 ABC National Amateur All Age and had the thrill of winning! Tom is known for his sportsmanship by all who know him and he has left his mark on the sport.

Congratulations to all this year's inductees! Be sure to stop at the Bird Dog Museum if you are anywhere near Grand Junction, TN! Tennessee is a great place to be in February, so start planning your getaway for next year's ceremonies!

