

A Labor of Love and History

A little over a year ago, an eclectic group of bird dog enthusiasts met to, symbolically, replicate the start of excavation, on the 6,000 sq. ft. addition to the Bird Dog Foundation Museum and Library in Grand Junction, TN. From certainly meager beginnings in the back room of Wilson Dunn's Hardware Store, across the street from a vacant lot on Hwy 57, the Museum has become the central repository of memorabilia, art and literature from the sport of Competitive Field Trialing in the United States. In all, the new wing made the 25th Anniversary of the opening, a memorable event. This past February, we all gathered again, as we do each year, prior to the National Bird Dog Championship at Ames Plantation, to honor the class of 2012 inductees into the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame along with those of the Pointer and Setter, German Shorthair, Springer Spaniel, Red Setter and Retriever worlds. But, possibly, a more impressive event was the official opening of the Sporting Dog Wing. With a focus on schedule and budget the then President Dale Bush, Executive Director, David Smith, the BDF staff and the various members of the breed HOF and above all the General Contractor, Grinder-Hayzlip, put the finishing touches on the project

that certainly continues the tradition of class and good taste of which the original structure, dedicated in 1991, had begun.

With Rick Smith and Mary Crawford, working to begin movement of Brittany artifacts to the new wing, they scheduled a work party in Grand Junction for July 25-28. When we arrived, we found that Dick and Carol Pulliam had already moved just about all the Brittany Art and Memorabilia to the new wing. Along with Rick, Mary and Dick, Delmar Smith, Mary

Karbiner, James Doherty and Ken Windom started to dig in to get the logic and chronology set up to make the work go ever so smoothly. Within a day most of the work was completed and everyone was able to get back home a day earlier. Delmar and Rick spent 2 more days working in the Library researching Brittany history from, bound volumes of The American Field and The American Brittany.

When you visit Grand Junction, you'll also notice that several of the



“retired” Classic Trophies will have permanent cases to exhibit the U S Open, Grouse and Pheasant trophies. The Harrison Crawford family of nearby Dancyville, will be making the cases. If you had an opportunity to view the bookshelves in the Library that house the back issues of the Brittany Magazine, then you've seen the impressive quality of the woodwork.

Even though there are a lot of empty spots on the walls where past inductees need to be placed, Mary, Dick Pulliam and I will be working together to get them filled.