

Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame Class of 2006 Inducted

by Mary Crawford

The Bird Dog Museum in Grand Junction, TN, buzzed with excitement on February 11. Although a blanket of white covered statues and plaques on the grounds, inside the museum more than a hundred Brittany enthusiasts attended the ceremonies at which two outstanding dogs and two distinguished persons officially became Brittany Field Trial Hall of Famers, the highest honor given in field trialing. The greatest of the greats are enshrined here - both dogs and people who have made significant contributions to the field trial sport.

After a buffet luncheon hosted by Purina, the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame ceremonies were opened by its Chairman, Bill Cartmell. After announcing the new inductees and introducing attending HOF members, he continued, "We should go back to the beginning - our first year at these ceremonies we inducted 3 dogs, *The Magic Moment* owned by Do Young, *Hi-Spirit Buck* owned by Warren Montgomery and *Reed's Bonine Max* owned by Charlie Johnson. Six people were inducted. John & Judy Webb, R. Trimble, Velma Tiedeman, Rheta Cartmell, Joy Sercy. Henceforth, of this group, all are still coming except those whose health prevents their participation." Today 32 people and 64 Brittanys have been inducted into the BFTHF. Of these 96, 10 people and owners of 23 dogs are still participating in our events. He displayed the commemorative BFTHF lapel pin that each person and dog inducted this year would receive and likened it to the rings treasured by the Football Hall of Fame.

5xCH/5xRU CH **Ajax VII** was the first dog to be inducted as his owners, John & Judy Marinelli, displayed his portrait and accepted his scroll. Tom Robin presented an account of Ajax's admirable field career under Chad Holman's direction with accolades and funny stories as a host of friends who campaign Ajax progeny looked on. Ajax's celebrated record includes 26 hour placements with 10 firsts, most notable being the ABC Pheasant, Michigan, International Open and Illinois Championships. He has sired and grand-sired numerous American Field Champions, field champions, hour winners, futurity winners and several with ABC national all age championship placements. His record of production continues to expand.



Judy and John Marinelli, owners of Ajax.



Ed Tillson, owner of *Tequila's Joker* and Wade Worrell, his breeder.

His progeny include numerous American field champions, field champions, several with national championship placements and two winners of ABC National Championships. His grand-pups are starting to make a showing with hour and futurity wins.

8xCH/5xRU CH **Tequila's Joker**, the second dog to be inducted, is owned by Ed Tillson, who accepted the scroll while his breeder Wade Worrell presented him into the Hall of Fame. TJ's illustrious record includes 26 hour placements with 8 firsts. He won the prestigious 1998 IAMS and Kasco Awards, the 1997 ABC National All Age Championship and the 1997 US Open Championship.



From left: Janet and Jim Chase, and Tom Burroughs.

Jim Chase was the first distinguished person to receive his scroll. His wife, Janet, watched as his portrait was displayed; Tom Burroughs, his presenter, spoke of Jim's patronage of field trialing. Jim is always looking for new endeavors to make field trialing a better sport, doing whatever it takes for a successful trial. He was instrumental in founding numerous championships, the Field Trial Hall of Fame and Bird Dog Museum and continues to promote them with fundraisers, his attendance and financial support. Over the years, he campaigned seven multiple hour champions including BFTHF Rimarda's Trademark. Jim is untiring in his efforts and enthusiasm for field trialing and serving the ABC.



Rosco and Janet Staton.

Rosco Staton was the final inductee to receive a scroll. His presenter, Al Gorrow, recounted several of his experiences with Rosco in the early days, telling of Rosco's beginning as an amateur and eventual rise to the top as a professional having four of his dogs currently in the BFTHF. Rosco's

outgoing and warm personality and his unending support of field trials make him truly an outstanding ambassador for our breed. Rosco accepted this honor with a lump in his throat, giving credit and praise to his #1 cheerleader Janet, his wife, who is always by his side. His three boys and other family members were in attendance for this honor.

First-time attendees were amazed at the Bird Dog Museum - it is one of a kind. Exhibits range from display cases of trophies, to sections devoted to various breeds and walls covered with plaques, hall of fame dogs and people. One of the most fascinating rooms is devoted to a taxidermist's preservation of wildlife where shelves are filled with various game birds and small game. This museum should be visited by every bird dog lover.

*"To be enshrined in a Hall of Fame
is the greatest achievement
in the field trial sports."*