

# 2014 Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame Inductions

By: Diana Kubitz

Plane reservations made, bags packed, weather cooperating, not a chance! I'm sure this winter will be what people will refer to for years as the "worst in recent memory!" On February 6th Gary and I drove to Detroit hoping that our flight would be leaving for Memphis. It did and was on time and since I don't "love" flying, it was also a good flight. It was fun to get together with everyone that had arrived on Thursday to have dinner that night at Perkins. We enjoyed the fellowship and catching up on news.



Friday morning after breakfast, most of us headed to the Bird Dog Museum to work in our Brittany wing. The second trophy case had arrived and Gary and I had been assigned to wash the glass and polish the case till it shone! When it was ready, the retired Pheasant Classic trophy found its new home inside. Mary Karbiner had found a beautiful antique bookcase that matched the

wood in the trophy cases and worked on putting some of our "antique" Brittany books inside! After lunch at the nearby café in Grand Junction, we inventoried everything in our wing so that we could keep track of what we have there. It wasn't just about raising the money for the wing, nor building it. It's also about the future of our wing, what will be housed in it, and how we pay for its upkeep. We have endowment funds set aside to pay our share of the building upkeep for each year. When we do memorial plaques and patron plaques for the museum, your donations go into that endowment fund for the future of the BFTHF as well as honoring worthy individuals.



A Patron Memorial membership plaque was granted to Barbara Wade of Yukon, Oklahoma. A tireless worker and competitor, Barbara's plaque was received by her admiring and loving friends: (l-r) Mary Crawford, Diana Kubitz, and Mary Karbiner.

Following a wonderful lunch provided by Purina

Pro Plan, the pointing side of bird dogs took center stage. After the moving invocation by Dr. Virginia Jones Finzel and the Pledge of Allegiance, there were welcomes from David Smith, the Executive Director of The Bird Dog Foundation, Donald Driggers, the President of The Bird Dog Foundation, the Honorable Curtis Lane, Mayor of Grand Junction and Bob West from Nestle Purina. Our thanks to all of them for making us feel welcome to the Bird Dog Foundation.

Next up was longtime Brittany owner and writer for the American Field, David Fletcher from Morrice, Michigan who presented the plaques. The first memorial plaque presented was for Barbara Wade and accepting the plaque was Mary Crawford (Texas), Mary Karbiner (Texas) and Diana Kubitz (Michigan); the memorial plaque for Tom Tighe was accepted by his wife Judy Tighe (North Carolina) and son Douglas Tighe (New Jersey); the memorial plaque for Jeff Steele was presented to his wife Venita Steele (Indiana), and Tom Burroughs (Illinois) accepted the plaque that his family had honored him with. After the ceremonies all the plaques



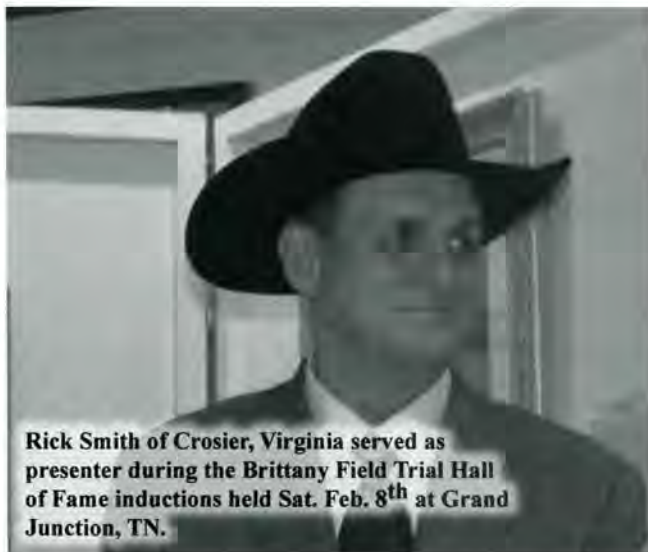
A Life Patron plaque was presented to Jeffrey Steele (deceased) of Delavan, Illinois. Accepting his plaque was his wife, Venita Steele, accompanied by friend, Steve McClure.

were hung in the BFTHF and copies went home with the families.

Living members of the Brittany, GSP, Red Setter and Pointer/Setter Field Trial Hall of Fame that were in attendance were recognized, as were the families attending of deceased members.

Rick Smith presided over the Brittany presentations. Rick, who most of you know is a public speaker, was nervous as a cat. When asked why he was so nervous, he said that he loved to talk about someone else, but hated to have people say nice things about him. I pointed out that he only had to do this once and he'd never have to hear nice things about himself again!

Rick began our session by officially thanking Purina and presenting a Purina Sign to Bob West, Roy Pelton and other Purina representatives. Purina representatives come to our events, answer questions and do whatever is necessary for us to be able to achieve our goals for the BFTHF and for our personal goals of winning field trials, not to mention sponsoring our annual Purina Award! The Purina Sign was thereafter hung in the Brittany wing as a reminder of their continuing support for field trials.



Rick Smith of Crosier, Virginia served as presenter during the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame inductions held Sat. Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at Grand Junction, TN.



**Dog inductee** – “Shambo’s Dark Shadow” – Shown at center holding portrait is owner, Bernie Crain of Raymore, Missouri. At left with scroll is Mary Karbiner, and at right is Bill Norvell.

Phil Dangerfield and Bernie Crain accepted the scroll for Shambo’s Dark Shadow our 2014 Deserving Dog of the year. Everyone should be aware by now of the remarkable field accomplishments and the significant successes of Shadow’s progeny that lead him to the BFTHF. Shadow amassed 44 all age hour stake wins and demonstrated his adaptability to differing terrain and game by winning stakes in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas.

Steve Ralph researched Mr. Louis A. Thebaud and brought it to the attention of the BFTHF that there had been an oversight in not inducting Mr. Thebaud

previously. Mr. Thebaud, a sportsman, competitor and philanthropist, was responsible for introducing the Brittany Spaniel into the United States. He was the first importer of the breed and he used his family fortune to promote the Brittany. He owned the first Brittany Spaniel with a recorded placement in an American field trial in 1935 and was responsible for the AKC recognizing the Brittany breed and entering it into their stud book. He was also co-founder of the later known American Brittany Club and played a major role in the breed’s rise to prominence in the field and on the show bench. Mary Crawford accepted Mr. Thebaud’s scroll on behalf of his family.

Ken Jacobson filled in for Delmar Smith, who was ill and unable to attend, to present Rick Smith with his scroll. Anyone who knows Rick knows that his gifts to our breed and the sport of dogs are many and varied. Rick is a giver, he gives of his time, his money, and most importantly his knowledge of bird dogs to anyone and everyone who needs it. Under his leadership the vision that the Cartmells and the Webbs had for the future of the BFTHF has flourished. If you haven’t seen the video of this presentation, it is available on Facebook and by



Inductee Rick Smith at right. Shown is Rick’s family: (l-r) Matt Linch; Rick’s daughter, Kristin Linch holding portrait; Max Linch; Madilyn Linch; and Rick’s wife, Kay Davis holding scroll.

email. It was a memorable speech and left no doubt in anyone's minds why this humble man, with so many accomplishments should have been inducted into the BFTHF. Rick's wife Kay, his daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren were in attendance to share in Rick's moment.

Rick Smith is fond of saying: "these Brittany people are passionate about this BFTHF" and he is right! To visit is to be awed and humbled, to participate furthers your passion for the breed and the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame. You can be a participant by choosing to send in your ballot for the 2015 candidates that will be found in the Brittany magazine later this year. After you send in your ballots they are counted and candidates,



**Inductee Louis Andre' Thebaud (1859 -1939)**  
Mr. Thebaud is considered the primary founder of the Brittany breed in America. Pictured displaying the awards for Mr. Thebaud are: (Left) Holding induction scroll, Mary Crawford, and (right) Steve Ralph holding portrait with biography.

canine and human, who have garnered the most votes are sent on to the BFTHF election committee for the final ballot. You can find information on the BFTHF on the website at: <http://www.brittanyfieldtrialhalloffame.com/>.

Ongoing research is being done on all the HOF dogs and people to find out as much as we can to preserve that knowledge for the future of the breed. We will be getting an interactive screen that will allow you to research the individuals or dogs on site. In the future we are considering putting a "QR code" by each photo and trophy so that those with smart phones can swipe their phones and read about the dog or person on their phone. We have Steve Ralph to thank for suggesting these items to enhance the quality of everyone's visit to the BFTHF! Set aside February 2015 for visiting the Bird Dog Museum in Grand Junction, Tennessee for the induction ceremonies so you can experience the passion firsthand.

Ken Jacobson has commissioned a life-size bronze of Pacolet's Cheyenne Sam and can be contacted about purchasing one of the small statues. The proceeds from the



**Tom Tighe plaque**  
A Patron Memorial plaque for Tom Tighe of Hoffman, North Carolina was presented to his widow, Judy, accompanied by son, Douglas Tighe.

sales will help fund the statue that will represent our breed and be displayed on the grounds in front of the Bird Dog Museum along with the other breed statues. Go to [www.PacoletCheyenneSam.com](http://www.PacoletCheyenneSam.com) for information on acquiring a statue to help fund this endeavor.

When visiting the BFTHF website please check out: <http://www.brittanyfieldtrialhalloffame.com/MarketPlace.htm>. The market place has items for sale and the proceeds go to the BFTHF for "Brittany Endowment Fund." If you would like to donate an item to be offered on the BFTHF Marketplace to help us raise funds for the "Brittany Endowment Fund", please contact us at [mail@BrittanyFieldTrialHallOfFame.com](mailto:mail@BrittanyFieldTrialHallOfFame.com).

Finally, a huge thanks to all the work contributed throughout the year by Chairman Rick Smith, Secretary Mary Crawford, Mary Karbner, Steve Ralph and Bird Dog Foundation Director, Dick Pulliam. Thank you to our sponsors Purina and Garmin Tri-Tronics for their generous support of our breed and the sporting dog world.



**Tom Burroughs plaque**  
A Life Patron membership plaque was awarded to Tom Burroughs of Harvard, Illinois. David Fletcher, Chairman of the Bird Dog Foundation plaque program, greeted Mr. Burroughs at his acceptance.