

# 2022 Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame Inductions and Ceremonies

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

It was a banner event for members of the Brittany community, who gathered at the Bird Dog Museum in Grand Junction, TN, on February 12 to pay tribute to new inductees and tour our museum. Family, friends, hall of famers and Brittany enthusiasts attended the ceremonies.

Workers in the museum always arrive a few days early - Henry Wierzbicki, Paul Arcand, Rick Smith and Mary Crawford were there this year with Mary Karbiner and her daughter coming in on Friday. Items were moved into the new display cabinet, pictures reorganized and a new table for books was put together. A framed photo and write up was hung above a table with the Iron Dog as a tribute to Barbara Rokas for her donation of so many items to our museum. We missed Diana and Gary Kubitz and Bob Fleury who couldn't make it this year.

Friday afternoon, the old dog wagon was pulled out of the storeroom behind the museum by Rick, Henry and Paul, under the direction of Tonya. This is the old wagon used for transporting dogs during training that has been restored. Each year it is moved from storage and placed on the concrete pad in front of the museum building for all visitors to admire.

Our Friday evening social in the Hampton Hotel lobby was again hosted by Rick S and Mary C with Mary Jo T. furnishing dips. It was a resounding success! We had tables full of donated items for the auction to raise money for our endowment fund. And raise money we did. Our amazing auctioneer Scott Johnson outdid himself this year as we raised \$5000. Thank you Scott and Mary K for keeping up with the \$\$\$. Also thank you Bob Rankin for donating the first \$100 to be matched. Delmar, looking like a youngster, was there this year cheering on the bidding to get the most dollars for each item. Lisa Pollock and Darlene Dow made a surprise visit by flying in Friday just in time for the social and auction.

Inductions began at the Bird Dog Museum Saturday morning. Everyone involved with the Bird Dog Foundation sincerely appreciates the dedication of Tonya Brotherton, Executive Director, and her staff and local volunteers for making the Ceremonies first class. Tonya and Bird Dog Foundation President David Medford opened the morning session along with Karl Gunzer of Nestle Purina..

At noon, a wonderful buffet lunch was provided by Nestle Purina, with Bob West, Greg Blair, Ray Voigt, Karl Gunzer, Jerry Cacchio, Dean Reinke, all associates of Purina in attendance during the weekend. All events this weekend are sponsored by Nestle Purina and co-sponsored by Ainley Kennel and Fabrication, Avery Outdoors and Garmin. We thank all of these sponsors.

Chairman Rick Smith proceeded with the much anticipated inductions during the afternoon session. **Ed Graves and Judy Graves** were accompanied at the podium by Mary Jo and Ray Trimble and Chad Holman. Ed and Judy got off to a winning start in Brittanys and have worked as a team for over 35 years. They began field trialing at Rend Lake in 1983 and have worked continuously in many capacities. They have financially supported both local projects at Pyramid and the Bird Dog Foundation. Both are licensed AKC field trial judges and still campaign dogs in the East Central, Central and Midwest Regions as well as the national championship. Ed and Judy served on a 2-year

Task Force sponsored by Senator Paul Schimpf and Southern Illinois University to develop a strategic plan for improvement of Pyramid State Recreation Area and to make sure that the Field Trial Community was duly protected. They have received the Honor Roll Award for Distinguished Members from the Field Trial Clubs of Illinois. During their time in Brittanys, Ed and Judy have also bred an occasional litter and reached out to new people to come and enjoy our sport as well.

Ed serves as President of the Illinois Brittany Club and Field Trial Chair and is a Director of the Illinois Championship Association. He was instrumental in bringing the Mid-South Championship to Southern Illinois now held in conjunction with the Illinois Spring trial. On a National level, Ed served as 1st Vice President and National Field Trial Chair in 1995 and 1996. His FC/AFC Mr. Buddy Boy was Runner-Up Champion in both the Open and Amateur Championships in 1994 and earned the Purina Dog of the Year Award. Ed has served as ABC Central Dates Coordinator and put countless hours of physical work into the Rend Lake grounds and the Pyramid field trial grounds in Illinois, making trips back and forth from his Missouri home.

Judy served as field trial secretary for decades for the Southern Illinois Brittany Club, the Illinois Brittany Club, the Mid-South Brittany Championship and currently the Illinois Brittany Championship. She also cooks most of the meals for those field trials along with scouting for Ed and their dogs. She serves on the ABC Magazine Committee, served as Final Futurity Forfeit Secretary from 2007 to 2014 and continues to work with the Futurity Committee.

Judy is best known for her knowledge of finance and Not for Profit rules and regulations. She was instrumental in creating a 501c3, NFP Foundation for the ABC and has served as ABC Financial Committee Chair since its inception. She established the first ever budget process for the ABC. Judy served as Executor of the Estate of Janet & Jim Chase, directing thousands of dollars for the Pyramid field trial grounds and to the Bird Dog Foundation.

Following the inductions, plaques and special tributes were presented. We missed Dave Fletcher who usually reads the plaques but couldn't come this year. Ray and Martha Gorman were presented with a Life Patron Membership plaque for their continued support of field trialing and club activities. A Patron Memorial Membership plaque for Rick Conner was received by Jan Conner and Rick's sons, Randy and Chris Conner along with many family members. Rick was a fixture at the field trials held at Ardmore, OK, driving the dog wagon for many years and watching Scott Johnson run his dogs.

A Special Tribute to Rheta Cartmell who passed away last year was held with remarks by Mary Jo Trimble, Pam Baird, Bob Fleury (written) and Mary Crawford. Rheta's framed photo and write up will hang in the museum.

Following the inductions, a reception honoring Hall of Fame Inductees was held courtesy of UKC/American Field. UKC Vice President Todd Kellum was in attendance.

Thus, ended the inductions and ceremonies!! It was truly a memorable weekend!