Hello friends! Spring has arrived, although here in Tennessee it has felt like spring has been here for a while. The winter here was very mild this year, reaching temperatures in the 70’s and even 80’s in January and February. This was a blessing for the National Championship Field Trials at the Ames Plantation, as there were no delays due to winter weather. In an effort to improve this year’s spring newsletter, the 2017 National Field Trial Hall of Fame inductions were covered in a separate special-issue newsletter which went out a few weeks ago and you should already have. I hope everyone has had a chance to look it over and that you enjoyed it.

Much has occurred here at the museum since our Fall 2016 newsletter, so this newsletter will catch those that were unable to attend up on the recent events and news here at the museum as well as cover any future events we have planned. I hope you will relax and enjoy.

I would also like to make everyone aware of our upcoming Living Legends Luncheon on May 6. This is a once in a lifetime event and I urge you not to miss it. Full details are on page 9.

Tonya Brotherton, Executive Director
Spring has finally arrived in West Tennessee. The winter was short and unusually warm in the area this year. The National Championship Field Trials at the Ames Plantation was completed and the new champion was “Lester’s Sunny Hill Jo” owned by David Thompson, handled by Gary Lester, and scouted by Mark Haynes. Congratulations to all.

The 2017 Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held at the National Bird Dog Museum and Hall of Fame on the second weekend of February. There were many deserving people and dogs that were inducted from the different breeds. Attendance at the event was high, even more so than last year. The staff and volunteers did an excellent job hosting the event and made everyone there feel very welcomed. I would like to thank all the staff, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters for their efforts and the donation of their time during the February events.

I would like to remind everyone that the initial bricks in the “Paving Memory Lane” fundraiser will be placed on August 1, 2017, so anyone that would like to be a part of this project from the beginning should act quickly. For $100 you can have a person or dog remembered for years to come. An engraved brick with their name on it will be placed on the walkway that runs from the museum’s parking lot to the entrance. I hope that many will support this project and I encourage you to do so.

I encourage anyone in the West Tennessee area to visit the National Bird Dog Museum and Field Trial Hall of Fame, where our staff will ensure you have an enjoyable and memorable experience. I also urge any visitors to support our gift shop and make use of it as much as possible. Come see us.

Don Driggers, President
I would like to thank all of those who renewed their President’s Council membership this year as well as all of our new members. You are a very special group of people whose support we greatly appreciate. President’s Council members support the National Bird Dog Museum and Field Trial Hall of Fame with an annual gift of $1,000 or more. These funds are placed in a special account and are used at the discretion of the Board of Directors for projects supporting the Bird Dog Foundation. In each newsletter, we cast the spotlight on a member of this prestigious group.

PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT:

For our Spring 2017 President’s Council Spotlight, we would like to recognize Donald Driggers.

Donald Driggers began his association with Retrievers in 1978 when he purchased a Golden Retriever, which he trained through his derby career. He attended his first National Amateur Field Trial in Maine, where Dennis Bath won the stake with Cadillac Mack. Since that time he was hooked and has devoted much of his life to the Retriever sport. He has judged a large number of major and minor stakes, including the National Championship stake in 1994 in St. Louis and the National Amateur Championship stake in 2006 in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

He presently sits on the Board of Directors of the Labrador Retriever Club and is an active member of the Talbot Retriever Club, the Shrewsbury River Retriever Club, and the South Jersey Retriever Club. He works many local and National Amateur trials.

Donald has trained three dogs to champion status—FC AFC Twin D’s One Tough Hombre, FC AFC Corey Chad’s Blue North Axle, and AFC Wind River’s Most Wanted (Felon). Felon completed the 2007 National Amateur in Castle Rock, Utah. He has qualified for ten National Amateurs with three different dogs and completed one National Amateur.

His private life is totally devoted to Retrievers, including helping others train their dogs and giving judges clinics from North Carolina to Maine. He is presently the president of the National Bird Dog Museum and Field Trial Hall of Fame. He works tirelessly to preserve the history of the Retriever sport at the museum.

Donald is a lawyer at Turp, Coates, Essl, & Driggers in Hightown, New Jersey, and resides in Oxford, Maryland.
RECENT EVENTS

VOLUNTEER DINNER

We held our annual volunteer dinner on October 27, 2016. This event is held to thank the museum’s volunteers and sponsors for the valued donation of their time and efforts. It is at this event that the winner of the museum’s annual shotgun giveaway is announced. The 2016 winner was Matt Griswell of Selmer, Tennessee (shown to the left). We also gave away a $100 Wal-Mart gift card, which was won by Rich Emerson of Saulsbury, Tennessee (shown on the right with Executive Director Tonya Brotherton).

2016 SPECIAL VISITORS

Some pictures of our most memorable visitors to museum in October-December 2016

Executive Director Tonya Brotherton with Peregrine Falcon

Brent Wonnacott—Five Time Champion Duck Caller

Trained Peregrine Falcon brought by museum visitor
The annual AFTCA banquet was held here at the museum on December 5, 2016. There was a great turnout for the event. I would like to thank all involved with the AFTCA for all your support and I appreciate you letting us be a part of your event.
FEBRUARY EVENTS

As was mentioned in the introduction to this newsletter, the February 2017 Hall of Fame inductions were already covered in a special-issue newsletter this year. The following are some pictures not included in the Hall of Fame newsletter or from our other February events.

Kenny Dickerson and David—Getting ready to cook catfish for the annual Luke Meatte Fish Fry on February 16

Field Trial wagon donated by Tony Banfield on display outside the front entrance of the museum throughout National Championship Field Trials from February 13-24

Brittany group at the presentation of the plaque added to the Sam Bronze—February 11

Crowd at the Luke Meatte Fish Fry going through the food line—February 16

Ross Young unveiling Whipporwill Justified with Greg Blair, Larry Huffman, and Piper Huffman—February 12

Cooks and volunteers for the Hall of Fame inductions—February 11
The National Bird Dog Museum was proud to be a part of the National Bird Hunters Association Field Trials held at the Ames Plantation this year. The museum hosted their handler’s dinner on March 3. A great time was had by all involved.
2017 ART AWARDS CEREMONY

The National Bird Dog Museum held the 2017 Art Awards Ceremony on March 18. There was about 150 people in attendance. We have some very talented young artists in the area and the museum hopes to encourage them to pursue their talents. The art contest division winners were:

DIVISION ONE: Asha Tyler—3rd Grade—Rose Creek Art Academy—Selmer, TN
DIVISION TWO: Kelsi Watkins—8th Grade—Corinth Middle School—Corinth, MS
DIVISION THREE: Brody Herndon—11th Grade—Rose Hill Middle School—Jackson, TN

JUDGE’S SPECIAL AWARD WINNER: Brody Herndon—11th Grade—Rose Hill Middle School—Jackson, TN

All winners receive a cash prize, award ribbons, and gift packages.

LEFT—Judge’s Special Award and Division Three winner by four time winner Brody Herndon.

RIGHT—Division Two winner by Kelsi Watkins.

Brody Herndon with his parents
Cole Campiche—1st Place Kindergarten winner—Fayette Academy—Somerville, TN
Alvin Bradford—1st Place 12th Grade winner—Haywood High School—Brownsville, TN
UPCOMING EVENTS

ESSFTA PARENT CLUB MEETING—APRIL 28
LIVING LEGENDS LUNCHEON—MAY 6
REGION 6 MEETING AND LUNCHEON—MAY 20
GRAND JUNCTION BLUE DEVILS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS REUNION—JUNE 3
GERMAN SHORT-HAIR POINTER ANNUAL MEETING—JUNE 3
NATIONAL BIRD HUNTERS ASSOCIATION BANQUET—JULY 29

2017 ESSAY CONTEST:
The 2017 Essay Contest is currently in progress. The deadline for entries into the contest was April 15. The Essay Contest Winners Awards date is to be announced.

LIVING LEGENDS LUNCHEON

On May 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., the National Bird Dog Museum will host a once in a lifetime event. The Living Legends Luncheon will bring together some of the most renowned names in the sporting dog world in one place to share their stories. This is a historical event that you do not want to miss. Seating is limited and tickets are on sale now. Price is $25.00 per person and all proceeds will benefit the National Bird Dog Museum.

Just some of the legends expected to attend:


NEW EXHIBITS

NEW TAXIDERMY:
We have acquired a stuffed prairie chicken, donated by Pat Keslar on January 18, 2017.

NEW PAINTING:
We have acquired a painting of Gary Lockee, by Eugene Bortnick and donated by Catherine Bortnick on February 15, 2017.
I would like to thank all who participated this year. While this is not our largest fundraiser, it does help to raise money to improve the museum and building the pawliday tree always helps to spread a little Christmas cheer here at the museum.

PARTICIPANTS:

Rex and Tonya Brotherton—Sambo
Brett Bonner—Caliber
Don Driggers—Louie, Colby, Axle, Hombre, Smokey, Blue, Red, Felon, Colt, & Domino
Dick Pulliam—Grand Junction Jake, Grand Junction Buck, & Wildwood Tennessee Chip
Ike Mussleman—Bandit
Gary and Sally Lockee—Cherokee Frederick, Cherokee Laura, Cherokee Ruthie, Cherokee Gunfire, Cherokee Dan, Cherokee Wendy, Cherokee Dakota, Cherokee Bee Bee, Cherokee Jill, Cherokee Lady, Cherokee Jody, Cherokee Patriot, Cherokee Megan, Cherokee Molly, & Jerry Runaway Bandit
Barney and Mary Jo Gordon—Ollie
Jeff Sexton—Sierra
Ronnie Markle—Bandit
Tonya Brotherton—Izzy & Astro
Lance Fargo—Sarge
Vera Courtney—Taragh
Jim Atchison—Millie
Chris Livingston—Frontline Shack Attack, Michelob’s First Kate, & Frontline Rebelator
Howard Miller—4 paws for Stella & 4 paws for Lily
Curtis & Donna Lane—Riley
PAVING MEMORY LANE

Our newest fundraiser is called “Paving Memory Lane.” The museum is offering engraved bricks on which you can immortalize your dog or a person that you feel should be honored or remembered. The bricks can have up to four lines of text with up to 15 characters per line. These bricks will be used to create a memorial walk from the museum’s parking lot to the front door. The cost is $100.00 per brick. The expected date to begin laying the bricks is August 1, 2017. The bricks can be ordered three different ways:

BY MAIL: The following page is the order form for the bricks. Simply print it out, fill out the form, and mail it back to the museum with a check or money order to the following address:

P.O. Box 774
Grand Junction, TN 38039

BY PHONE: To place a phone order, call the museum at (731)764-2058 and provide the necessary information and a credit card number.

INTERNET VIA PAYPAL: Log onto the museum’s website at www.birddogfoundation.com and click on the Paving Memory Lane brick and enter the required information.

LOSSES TO THE MUSEUM FAMILY

Since the Fall 2016 newsletter, the museum has lost several great friends, including Jim Cowan, Sam Milton, and Herb Anderson. It is with great sadness that we mention them here.

Jim Cowan was a local to the museum area and a longtime supporter of the Springer Spaniel breed.

Sam Milton was a Southern gentleman, a supporter of the Retriever breed, and the owner of Fordland’s Bored Out Ford, a member of the Retriever Hall of Fame.

Herb Anderson was a familiar face at the National Championship Field Trials and a World War II veteran.

They will be missed.
# PAVING MEMORY LANE

## ORDER FORM

National Bird Dog Museum
This is the only order form approved to order Engraved Brick.
731-764-2058
Laser Engraved Brick Order Form
Customer Information

| Customer Name: |  
| Phone Number: |  
| Address: |  
| City: |  
| Zip: |  

The cost of the bricks will be $100.00 each.
You are allowed 4 rows of 15 characters in lower case or 14 characters in upper case.

| Line 1 |  
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| Line 4 |  

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**"Memorials & Honorariums"**

The Bird Dog Foundation has received memorials for the following supporters and friends:

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<th>Joe Pilar</th>
<th>Morris Bortnick</th>
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<td>Mary Nell Stallings</td>
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<td>Gary Christensen</td>
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Dog Memorials have been given for Lily (Elise McAfee) and Cane (Don Driggers).

Honorariums have been received for Gary Lockee, Phillip & Janie McAfee, Tony Banfield, Rick Stallings, and Eileen Cowan.

Life Patron Memberships have been awarded to Mhari Peschel, Dick Moore, Mike Husenits, Leslie Hunt, Rich Murphy, Bobby McAfee, Muriel Primm, Mike Tracy, Bev Matthews, Bill Eckett, Dave Marshall, Ralph O Berryhill, & Joseph Lordi.

Patron Memorial plaques for Charles Alff, Dwight Smith, Jerry Albanese, David Lorenz, Terrell Dixon, & J.C. Turner.

For more information on the **Life Patron** or **Patron Memorial** plaque programs, contact Tonya Brotherton, 731-764-2058 or sportdog@bellsouth.net.

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SPECIAL VISITORS JANUARY—APRIL 2017
A few of our most memorable visitors so far in 2017

Tom & Julie Rall of Pennsylvania

Pete & Katie Flanagan of Oxford, NY

LEFT TO RIGHT: Scott Griffin, Charlie Morton, & Freddie Epp

LEFT TO RIGHT: Randy Anderson, Joe Whitt, & Harold Johnson—the museum’s first visitors in 2017

The Springer and Cocker Spaniel winners during the Springer/Cocker trials

Frank Sommer & Cydney Hansen
PARTING SHOTS

FIELD TRIAL HAIR

Oscar Whitt

Great Guy and a Great Sport

WHAT A CREW!!!

LEFT TO RIGHT: Greg Blair, Larry Garner, Brad Harter, & Ken Blackman

LARRY’S SMILE—HE ALWAYS HAS ONE!