



Short and to the Point

Celebrating 60+ years (1957-2018)

August 2018

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2018

September 28 – 7:00 PM
Tri-Valley Club House
Dresden, Ohio

November 17 - 1:00 PM
Brewster's
2681 Creekside Drive
Twinsburg, Ohio

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 1-2 GSPCO Walking
Field Trial
Oak Ridge Pointing Dog Club
Harrisville, PA

September 8-9 Dual Hunt Test
Oak Ridge Pointing Dog Club
Harrisville, PA

September 28-30 GSPCO Horseback
Field Trial
Tri-Valley WMA
Dresden, Ohio

October 6-7 Buckeye GSPC
Horseback Field Trial
Tri-Valley WMA
Dresden, Ohio

December 1, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.
Annual Banquet
American Legion
Twinsburg, Ohio

New Member Josh Wukusick



Josh used his New Member Entry Certificate at this springs Hunt Test. He and Remi passed their first Junior Hunt Test.

President – Dennis Meinke

As we prepare for our Fall events, I want to mention an important club need for support for some of next year's events. First our specialty show, I want to thank Cindi Chilbert for all her efforts in keeping this event going for the past many years. As most of you probably know Cindi and Mike will be relocating to Tennessee and can no longer coordinate this event. I would very much appreciate someone stepping up and coordinating this event in the future and can promise the clubs support.

We are also looking for someone to become the Secretary for the Spring Horseback Trial. Jen (Sheehan) Goodall has done a great job as Secretary of both the NGSPA Ohio Championship Trial and the weekend GSPCO Horseback Trial. This is too much to ask of one person, so Jen has requested someone step up to do the weekend trial. This is just Saturday and Sunday. Jen will have been there for a week doing the NGSPA so she needs a break. She is willing to help the new person.

If you are interested in supporting either of these events, please contact me, Cindi or Jen for more information.

We had a great turnout at our Annual Picnic and Training Day at the Crooked Creek Conservation Club this past weekend. I am looking forward to our September events, the Walking Field Trial, Hunt Test and Horseback Field Trial. Hope to see many of you at these events.

Website – Did you know

The premiums for all three of our Fall events are on the website under Forms – Premiums. Also, checkout all the pictures from our spring events on the Photo Gallery carousel.

Find us at: <http://gspcofohio.org/> and check out the Facebook page also.

GSPCO Annual Picnic and Training Day

Submitted by Sher Meinke

On August 4th the Club held our annual picnic and training day. It was very successful and a well-attended event. We had some 29 members and family attend, the most ever. Many GSPs from 4 weeks to Seniors. The weather was warm but nice. Quail were available thanks to Bob Reynolds and many spent time in the field working with their dogs. We held both a Club Board Meeting and Bimonthly membership meeting. As always there was pot luck lunch with meats provided by the club and prepared by chief Chuck Meadors.

Chuck prepares the
grilled meats for the
picnic.

Great job!



What Is the Purpose of a Futurity?

Submitted by Bob Reynolds

When dog people get together and the discussion moves to questions like – “how can we improve our dogs?” the one answer that should resound loud and clear is this: Register and run your dogs in the FUTURITY. While some folks don’t understand the importance of participating in a futurity, it really is vital to the future of our breeds.

Many dog organizations have created a breeder’s stake or some similar type of competition to support the breeding of BETTER dogs. For example, some groups (such as NAVHDA, the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association) offer a “Breeder’s Award” to encourage best breeding practice. The NAVHDA award is based upon a minimum number of puppies from the litter performing at a required level of competence. The pups must prove that they have versatile hunting qualities by passing a “natural ability” test.

In pointing dogs, a “Futurity” is a popular method of supporting the improvement of the breed. Whether you are a hunter or a field trial competitor, futurity testing encourages improvement of your bloodlines for better performance and long term health. If you decide to breed a litter of pups, take it a step further and “do the right thing.” Nominate your litter for the National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity.

For those of you who do not nominate your litters for the Futurity, here are a couple of reasons to use the futurity. First of all, you should only breed to make a BETTER dog. Just because you own a dog that you are “fond of,” doesn’t necessarily mean that your dog’s genes should be passed on to future generations. If you don’t breed high quality dogs that have a proven record of success, it isn’t long before the breed begins to slide back into mediocrity. Remember, it’s easy to breed dogs of low quality. The challenge is to continue to improve the breed and create dogs of high quality. There is no such thing as a “perfect” dog – but if you think your dog is worthy enough to breed, you should find it an equally suitable mate whose strengths complement the breeding in a manner to offset any faults you hope to correct. When the pups are born, nominate the litter for the National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity. Tell the new puppy owners that the litter is nominated and you expect them to run their dog in the assigned futurity. Encourage them to train and prepare for that test.

The American Field strongly advocates testing our breeding programs through a Futurity. They published an exceptional article last year about the importance of futurities. We thank them for allowing us to share part of here.

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Futurities: Foundation of Better Bird Dogs

Back at the turn of the 20th century, 1900, the status of the pointing dog in the United States was not bright, not bleak, but not bright. Bird dog enthusiasts decried the quality, or the lack of, in their dogs, style and endurance of particular concern.

In 1903 The American Field introduced the Futurity to address these concerns. The focus was selective breeding, selecting sires and dams with the potential to produce superior offspring.

Guidelines for the stake called for breeders to nominate dams after having bred with a modest forfeit fee, and when the resultant litter was whelped, keep the nomination alive with a second forfeit fee payment and enrollment of the litter in the Field Dog Stud Book. These three steps – nomination, forfeit fees and enrollment of the litter – would accord to all puppies in the litter eligibility to be entered in the futurity.

The first running was held in the fall of 1905 in southeast Illinois, at Robinson. The weather – heavy rain - caused a bit of a glitch but when all was said and done, the effort was deemed a success. The stake grew and prospered, and in 1932 a second Futurity – for pheasant dogs – was introduced, and first held in 1934.

What followed was the inauguration of other Futurities: Grouse and Woodcock, and the popular Shooting Dog breeders' classics, and those for specific breeds – Brittany, German Shorthaired Pointer, Red Setter, et al., each with the primary purpose of improving the pointing dog breeds.

To encourage breeders and owners to engage in this enterprise – be it for all age, shooting dog or a particular breed – attractive purses and other awards are offered to both the breeder and the owner.

(Reprinted with permission from the Secretary of the National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity.)

In the Shorthaired breed there are two futurities. The National German Shorthaired Pointer Association's National Futurity is run in the spring during the NGSPA National Championship. To be eligible, a litter must be nominated for the futurity within 45 day of whelping. In order to keep your puppy eligible to compete in the NGSPA Futurity a second forfeit for \$25 is due and payable before your puppy is one year old. In addition, you should register this puppy in the Field Dog Stud Book. The NGSPA conducts its trials under the auspices of the American Field. If the litter is not Field Dog Stud Book enrolled, first register your young dog with the American Kennel Club. When the registration papers are returned to you, make a copy of the registration papers.

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Then forward a Field Dog Stud Book application for registration, the copy of your AKC registration papers, and a check for \$20 for The American Field, 542 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60605. **You should not forward your original registration papers to the American Field.** If you are forwarding a copy of your AKC registration papers, you are only required to complete the first section of the Field Dog Stud Book application for registration. You do not have to complete the sire and dam information or complete the section for the “Certificate For Owner of Dam.” Subsequently, the Field Dog Stud Book registration papers will be returned to you.

The German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America is run in the fall during the GSPCA’s National Championship. To be eligible a litter must be nominated within 30 days of whelping and a second forfeit of \$35 is due before the puppy is one year old.

The purpose of the Breeders’ stake is to promote the German Shorthaired Pointers’ progress by thoughtful breeding and to emphasize the roll of dams and “motherliness” in that progress. German mother line breeding is simple line breeding directed at the dam’s side. Shorthaired progress depends upon line breeding, regardless to which side it is directed. The males should be related, how close is the decision of the breeder. More than 100 years ago, Albrecht, Prince zu Slums, said that the Shorthaired progress would come “...by continuously using at stud the same dogs which are the most efficient in hunting.” Line breeding to the “...dogs that are the most efficient in hunting” will bring progress at twice its present rate.

The 21st century, more than 100 years after the first Futurity was held, finds these breeders’ classics at the “crossroads.” There is no denying the benefit the field trial sport has derived from the Futurities. The class competitors of the past 75 years or more are the direct result of breeders’ thoughtful and selective breeding, and owners’ support of these young dogs whose first taste of major stakes competition are the Derby stakes, especially the Futurities.

Breeders and owners are responsible for the longstanding success of the Futurities.

The nominations fees are modest, but the rewards for both breeders and owners are significant, personally with purse monies and other awards, as well as the benefit to the sport – better bird dogs that will enhance future field trial competitions.

An often asked question: How can the field trial community nurture and contribute to the field trial sport: The answer is simple! Support the Futurities!

If you have any other questions about our breeder futurities, contact Dr. Robert Reynolds for more information.