

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA FRENCH BRITTANY CLASSIC, 2011

Written by Mark Bird, Edited by Amy Bird

Once again it was a pleasure to be invited back to El Consuelo Farms in Quincy, Florida by our friend and host Mr. Guy de la Valdean for what would prove to be two exciting days of wild bird field trials. The first thing that strikes you as you arrive at El Consuelo is the impression that you have momentarily traveled back in time to when the Bob White Quail flourished, young men and woman still said things like sir and ma'am, a man knew his neighbors, and a bird dog was a English Pointer or Setter. A time and place when a wild covey rise of Bob White Quail would break the early morning silence with a flurry of a hundred wings racing into the air as one. A time when a man could walk with his bird dog all day and come upon numerous coveys of over 30-40 birds and hunt the singles all day if he wished. In short a time when wild birds were plentiful and the world moved at a much slower pace.

Times have changed and so have the dogs as members of the Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club of Georgia (EBGDCA) gathered together for a great day of trialing and fellowship. Here at El Consuelo Farms the hope of wild coveys on the fly is as real today as it was in days past. Our gracious host made everyone feel at home and provided an exquisite 5 star lunch for both Friday's and Saturday's trials. The rolling landscape dotted with wide areas of broom sedge, briars, bi-color lespedeza, interposed with stands of tall long leaf and loblolly pines paints a perfect picture of an ideal home for southern bred Bob White Quail.

Our judges this year were the Honorable Mr. Peter Wax and the Honorable Mark Dinsmore of North Dakota accompanying them was field trial apprentice judge Anne Johnson from Minnesota. They were assisted by guides and El Consuelo manager and head gamekeeper, Daniel Boyd whose efficiency and hard work made the trial flow seamlessly. Working along side all these fine folks were the tireless members of the Georgia field trial committee headed by Club Vice President Bill Wall, Club and Trial Secretary Jackie Hutwagner, Club Treasurer Billy Cannon, and our new Club Photographer Fatmi Anders. Thank you Fatmi for all the great photographs which can be found on the club web site at www.frenchbrittanygeorgia.com and everyone else that pitched in to keep things on track.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7TH RESULTS

Open Brace Results:

While the caliber of all the dogs was high and all ran a spirited course, the wild birds proved illusive and no placements or passes were awarded.

Open Brace Participants:

- 1) CHF CH Topperlyn Fontay Azure Bo, owner/handler Glen Gunderson.
- 1) Dodie du Mas D'Pataula, owner/handler Fred Overby.

- 2) Cloud de Laudour, owner/handler Fred Overby.
- 2) NBOB GrCHF Topperlyn Gallant Bodacious, Glen Gunderson.

Open Solo Results:

As with the brace heat the wild birds proved too much on this day for the open dog class and no placements or passes were awarded.

Open Solo Participants:

- 1) CHF CH TopperLyn Fontay Azure Bo, owner/handler Glen Gunderson
- 2) Ember du Mas D' Pataula, handler Fred Overby
- 3) Cloud D, Laudour, owner/handler Fred Overby
- 4) NBOB GrCHF Topperlyn Gallant Bodacious, owner/handler Glen Gunderson
- 5) Dodie du Mas D'Pataula, owner/handler Fred Overby

Gun Dog Solo Results:

Our First Place Gun Dog winner on Friday was Eclipse de Hannahatchee, owned and handled by Jackie Hutwagner. Eclipse set the bar for all the other GUN dogs by displaying perfect GUN dog manners on these cagey wild birds. Jackie's hard work and dedication to his training regime is an example for us all to strive to emulate. Also a strong performance by a young up-and-comer Baron Marquis de L'Escarbot, owned/handled by Jim Anders won them a Reserve placement. Earning a Pass were Beaute de Cannon Colline, owner/handler Billy Cannon; Esquire du Mas D'Patula; Eugene de Hannahatchee and Alaska des Breton Chanteurs TAN owner/handler Jackie Hutwagner.

Gun Dog Participants:

- 1) Decon Bo du Copper Spur TAN, handler Glen Gunderson.
- 2) T. Jean-Luc du Pure Point, owner/handler Jim Anders.
- 3) GUN2 CH Gundy's Gypsy Jo Du Huron, handler Glen Gunderson.
- 4) Dakota du Cararet des Pins, owner Wallace Huey, handler Fred Overby.
- 5) Evie de L'Arbre Croche, owner/handler Lambert Johnson.
- 6) Elyn du Copper Spur, handler Glen Gunderson.
- 7) Baron Marquise de L'Escarbot, owner/handler Jim Anders. (Reserve)
- 8) Delaware de Ju Savane Rouge, owner/handler Greg Beck.
- 9) Aimee de Pataula, owner/handler Cecil Whitaker.
- 10) Elvis de Canon Colline, owner/handler Billy Cannon.
- 11) Eugene de Hannahatchee, owner/handler Jackie Hutwagner. (Pass)
- 12) Esquire du Mass D'Patula, owner/handler Hal Avery. (Pass)
- 13) Eclipse de Hannahatchee, owner/handler Jackie Hutwagner. (1st Place)
- 14) Tessie des Par-Dessus-Par TAN, owner Wallace Huey, Handler Justin Hansen.
- 15) Beaute de-Cannon Colline, owner/handler Billy Cannon. (Pass)

- 16) Ember de Hannahatchee, owner/handler Jackie Hutwagner.
- 17) Cactus Coupe des Peniche, owner/handler Dudley Horton.
- 18) Vampire des Renfro, owner/handler Billy Cannon.
- 19) Hunt2 Alan de L'Escarbot TAN, owner/handler Bill Wall
- 20) Alaska des Breton Chanteurs, owner/handler Jackie Hutwagner. (Pass)
- 21) Peche de l'Escarbot, owner/handler Mark Bird
- 22) Taiga de L'Escarbot. owner/handler Mark Bird

TAN:

One of the most fun parts of any trials is watching the young dogs running in the Test of Natural Abilities (TAN). To score a pass all the dog must do is hunt with enthusiasm, point a bird, demonstrate that is not gun shy, and works with and obeys its handler's commands. Three young dogs got a chance to prove that they had the right stuff and are well on their way to becoming outstanding bird dogs. The following all participated and earned their TAN title. Maggie, owner/handler Billy Cannon; Evie de L'Arbre Croch, owner/handler Lambert Johnson; Delaware de Ju Savane Rouge, owner/handler Greg Beck.

SATURDAY JANUARY 8th

Open Brace Results:

As in the day before the birds proved illusive and no Placements or Passes were awarded however, a special thank you goes out to our participants for making the Open Brace Heat a success.

Open Brace Participants:

- 1) Dodie du Mas D'Pataula, owner/handler Fred Overby.
- 1) NBOB GrCHF Topperlyn Gallant Bodacious, owner/handler Glenn Gunderson.
- 2) Cloud de L'Audour, owner/handler Fred Overby
- 2) CHF CH Topperlyn Fontay Azure Bo, owner/handler Glenn Gunderson.

Open Solo Results:

Warming conditions, unfavorable calm winds, and fast running wild birds continued to challenge the open dogs. Despite the difficult conditions trial veterans NBOB GrCHF Topperlyn Gallant Bodacious and his handler Glenn Gunderson showed way they were champions with a perfect performance earning First Place. There were no other placements or passes in the Open division.

Open Solo Participants:

- 1) CHF CH TopperLyn Fontay Azure Bo, owner/handler Glen Gunderson.
- 2) Ember du Mas D' Pataula, handler Fred Overby.

- 3) Cloud D, Laudour, owner/handler Fred Overby.
- 4) NBOB GrCHF Topperlyn Gallant Bodacious, handler Glen Gunderson. (1st Place).
- 5) Dodie du Mas D'Pataula, owner/handler Fred Overby

Gun Dog Solo Results:

Taking 1st Place in the GUN division was the duo of Vampire des Renfro and his owner/handler Billy Cannon. Earning a Pass were Ucca des Par Deusseu Par, owner/handler Terry Bennet; and HUNT2 Alan de L'Escarbot TAN, owner/handler Bill Wall. In addition the young and high spirited Elegante de RCK du Copperspur put in an outstanding run. Though unable to receive a Pass this youngster outstanding performance was rewarded by earning the award of High Natural Qualities (HNQ).

Gun Dog participants:

- 1) Decon bo du Copper Spur TAN, handler Glen Gunderson.
- 2) T. Jean-Luc du Pure Point, owner/handler Jim Anders.
- 3) Smiths Falon du Copper Spur, handler Glen Gunderson.
- 4) Dakota du Cararet des Pins, owner Wallace Huey, handler Fred Overby.
- 5) Evie de L'Arbre Croche, owner/handler Lambert Johnson.
- 6) Decon bo du Copperspur, handler Glen Gunderson.
- 7) Baron Marquise de L'Escarbot, owner/handler Jim Anders. (Reserve)
- 8) Delaware de Ju Savane Rouge, owner/handler Greg Beck.
- 9) Aimee de Pataula, owner/handler Cecil Whitaker.
- 10) Elvis de Canon Colline, owner/handler Billy Cannon.
- 11) Eugene de Hannahatchee, owner Jackie Hutwagner, handler Tate Hutwagner.
- 12) Esquire du Mass D'Patula, owner/handler Hal Avery.
- 13) Eclipse de Hannahatchee, owner/handler Jackie Hutwagner.
- 14) Tessie des Par-Dessus-Par TAN, owner Wallace Huey, Handler Justin Hansen.
- 15) Beaute de-Cannon Colline, owner/handler Billy Cannon. (Pass)
- 16) Ember de Hannahatchee, owner Jackie Hutwagner, handler Tate Hutwagner.
- 17) Cactus Coupe des Peniche, owner/handler Dudley Horton.
- 18) Vampire des Renfro, owner/handler Billy Cannon. (1st Place)
- 19) Hunt2 Alan de L'Escarbot TAN, owner/handler Bill Wall. (Pass)
- 20) Alaska des Breton Chanteurs, owner Jackie Hutwagner, handler Tate Hutwagner.
- 21) Peche de L'Escarbot, owner/handler Mark Bird
- 22) Taiga de L'Escarbot. Owner/handler Mark Bird
- 23) Elegante de RCK du Copperspur, handler Glen Gunderson. (HNQ)
- 24) Eagle de Hannahatchee, owner/handler John Hannington.
- 25) Ucca des Par Deusseu Par, owner/handler Terry Bennet. (Pass)
- 26) Esprit du Mas D'Patula, owner/handler John Hannington.

I want to once again say thank you to our fabulous host and for sharing his property with all of us. At the end of the day it is about more than just identifying the best dogs. For this writer it is also about spending time among friends, good dogs, and time spent with them both in the field.

In closing, I would like to share part of a letter sent to me by our guest Judge Mr. Peter Wax after these trials. “Whenever I judge it seems there are always some things that really stick. I saw an armadillo, trees that I could not identify, learned what ba’colla was as in ‘the burds arrin the ba’colla’. It was refreshing to learn that young men are still respectful, dogs are good all across this wonderful country, that Cecil Whitaker has a great dog, that people can make mistakes and not get angry, and that no one was running for the money.”

Thanks Peter. Now that I think about it maybe things really haven’t changed all that much after all.

Mark Bird