

The Gun Dog Supreme

NEWS BULLETIN of the WIREHAired POINTING GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA
EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

<http://www.gundogsupreme.org>

October 2011

Volume 86, Number 5

October 2011



Sack Time

Gunny von Tuefelhunden of Dutchman's Hollow getting to know his uncle, Angus von Tuefelhunden of Willow Springs. (Photo by owner Dan Seibel)

Copyright © 2011 Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education and Research Foundation. No part may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education and Research Foundation.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Getting out the October GDS is challenging because everyone is too busy hunting birds (including yours truly) to bother with writing or searching out typos. If you know what's good for you, you'll get out there hunting too. Just remember to document your adventures with some photos and type up your yarns so that we can share them with the club.

I'd like to say thank you to Tracy Dilly, who provides a description of her first experience with a training day. I'd also like to echo her enthusiasm and encourage all new pup owners to get their young dogs plenty of field time this season.

And a little history lesson for all of you who might have looked at the front cover and wondered about those "Teufelhunden" dogs on the cover page. "Teufelhunden" is German for Devil dogs— a moniker given to U.S. Marines back in World War I when the Marines took Belleau Wood from the



Germans in June, 1918. Proud owner of these two griffons is LtCol Daniel "Gonzo" Seibel of the U.S. Marine Corps., so what better name

for a versatile gun dog?

Enjoy and good hunting.

Rem DeJong

EDITORS

Rem DeJong
John Pitlo
Anna Ziedins

SUBSCR./BACK ISSUES

Printed bi-monthly, the GDS is included with a membership to the WPGCA. Subscriptions are \$40.00/year and due at the start of each year. Subscriptions and requests for back issues should be sent to:

Judy Coil
49625 Waldo Rd NE
Kelliher MN 56650
Ph (218) 647-8451
jcoil@paulbunyan.net

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Send articles or proposals 2 months prior to the issues printing to:

Rem DeJong
809 West Kaye Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
Ph: (906) 228-6475 (EST)
e-mail: Rem.DeJong@wpgca.org

Word document via email preferred.

PHOTO SUBMISSION

All photos should be sent to:

Rem DeJong
809 West Kaye Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
Ph: 906-228-6475(EST)
Email: Rem.DeJong@wpgca.org

Include the name of the dog and owner, and who took the photo. Digital photos are required; preferred size is 1024 x 768 pixels. If scanned use 300dpi (grayscale). You can email them or mail on a disk/CD.

WEBSITES

E&R Foundation:
www.gundogsupreme.org

Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club:
www.wpgca.org

OFFICERS

Gary Pool-President
John Pitlo-Vice President
Jim Seibel- Treasure
Judy Coil- Secretary

DIRECTORS at LARGE

Glenn Lehrer
Rick Molt
Ken Hurtig

Are You Right for a WPGCA Griffon?

by
Rem DeJong



Time and Commitment

Mike Chalpaty takes advantage of a Michigan training day to get Flap-jack Frankie of Dutchman's Hollow some much needed exposure to tracking ducks.

Photo by Rem DeJong

Here's a typical inquiry to the WPGCA. "I've been researching bird dogs, and I'd like to get a griffon. How much do they cost? Where can I find a breeder near me?" Meanwhile, at the Breeding Committee mailbox, the thinking is something like this: "Great. Someone interested in getting one of our pups. Does this person really have what we're looking for to get the job done?"

Getting a pup (prospective owner question) and getting the job done (Breeding Committee assessment) are related issues, but not the same. Lots of folks want a good bird dog—rock solid pointer, eager retriever; it's easy to imagine yourself on a crisp October

day with your fine griffon as you fill your bag limit with yet another long-tailed rooster. The WPGCA Breeding Committee wants that too, but it's more-or-less a by-product of their interest. There are lots of potential dog owners, but like the U.S. Marine Corps, they're looking for a few good men (and women), because they're not recruiting owners; they're recruiting participants for a unique experiment. Here's what I mean.

You can think of the WPGCA as an on-going quality control study. The basic elements are these:

1. The Breeding Committee using all of its acquired data on pedigrees, test performance, litter evaluation, and knowledge of breeding principles, selects females and males to be paired for breeding.
2. Selected breedings are completed using the best available breeding technology, often at considerable expenditure of time and resources on the part of the Breeding Committee and breeders.
3. Assuming a productive breeding, the breeder and family devote about ten intensive weeks to raising and socializing the litter so that every pup has maximum potential to develop into a fine hunter and family companion, using the collective knowledge and skills acquired by WPGCA breeders over the decades.
4. Here's where you come in. Puppies are shipped to their new homes where the owners continue the exposure and training process to develop each pup's potential as a hunter and family companion. They arrange for their pups PennHip evaluations and run them in NAT and IHDT tests.
5. Each pup goes through Natural Ability Testing, Intermediate Hunting Dog testing, evaluation for conformation and temperament. These testing events require phenomenal effort by club members who train to become judges, organize the test sites, secure birds, do the judging, record the data and a host of other tasks.
6. The Breeding Committee assesses the new data from these evaluations to determine the success of their breeding decisions and to plan future breedings.

Now program evaluation research, isn't nearly as fun as hunting, but bear with me; I'll make this brief. Before an evaluator conducts summative research (Was the program effective in producing results?), it's essential to do formative research (Was the program implemented with true fidelity to the plan?) In many instances where program evaluations fail to show that a program was effective, the culprit is not a faulty theory or program, the problem is that the program was not well implemented. Many times, programs don't work because the treatment never really was administered or the participant got a very weak dosage of exposure to the treatment. So where in the six-step model described above might things go wrong? Most likely at Step 4.

For the WPGCA quality control experiment to work well, every pup must receive an ample dose of hunting exposure and training. The genetic potential can be there; the breeder may have done all the right things with dam and pups, but every pup needs to then get a substantial dose of exposure to game, hours in the field and marsh to develop the potential. When the judges observe a dog in testing, there are enough other uncontrollable variables (weather, water conditions, bird quality, etc.) that they should not have to divine out whether lack of search or failure to track a duck is due to poor genetics or lack of exposure and training. Of course handlers vary in skill and some dogs are bound to have gotten more exposure to field and water work than others, but no dog

should be appearing for an IHDT evaluation without ever having sniffed a duck track on the water. Every pup should have had ample exposure to game before the NAT and every young dog should have had basic obedience and retrieving training before the IHDT.

As a recipient of a new pup, we may not always appreciate what we're signing up for when we take on a WPGCA pup. We are not just getting a hunting dog for ourselves; we are signing on to do our part in the grand program evaluation project that is the WPGCA. Whether or not one should be entrusted with a WPGCA pup is not just a question for new members either; it's a question that we each need to consider with every pup assignment. I'm personally a good (or bad) example.

I received my first griffon, **Ruffle of Ashview**, way back in 1973. She was my first pointing dog. I knew little about training, made lots of mistakes, but that little dog spent many, many days during her first year sniffing out grouse, woodcock and snowshoe hare. (I hated those damn snowshoes; she'd be gone for an hour, barking on the trail while I grew hoarse calling her.) There were plenty of ducks too—puddlers in beaver ponds and small rivers plus divers along the frosty, late November shores of Green Bay. I wasn't a great handler, but any judge could see that Ruff had plenty of hunting ability.

Then came **Axel of Whitewater**. I never should have gotten that dog. I'd put old Ruff down; the boys, age 9 and 12 wanted a new dog, and of course I wanted another griffon. Being a long-time club member, I wasn't on the wait list very long. But my life was very different than when Ruff had arrived. We were now living over 250 miles from my employer in Marquette, MI. I was commuting home on the weekends, and the new pup was left at home with two little boys and a busy mom. Opening day of woodcock season was about the first real exposure to birds that the little guy got. He pointed; I shot and missed. He pointed, and I missed again. A few more repetitions, and he learned that if he didn't point, then he didn't hear that loud, scary bang. He quit pointing. Back home, while I was gone on my weekly work trip, he caught a small bird. Susan and the boys yelled at him and punished him for hurting the bird. When he did get a chance to retrieve while hunting, he refused to pick up a dead bird and would only follow a cripple, not pick it up, even though he loved to retrieve balls and toys.

Axel had a lousy coat. Two days in the field and his belly was as bald as my head is today. Pointing issues, retrieving issues and a bad coat. At his natural ability test, Joan Bailey told me that I could get my money back. Get rid of the dog and get my money back? I might as well never come home again as send Axel away. You don't put your kids in foster care because they get "D"s on their report cards. So Axel had a bad score, I wrote it off to crummy breeding and went bow hunting for the next ten years. But looking back, the big problem wasn't Axel; it was me. Axel never would have been a great hunter, but he could have been an OK hunter if I had fulfilled my end of the bargain. What the judges were measuring that day in Iowa was not a bad dog with reasonable training and exposure; it was a mediocre dog with bad preparation by it's owner.

By the time my third griffon, **Brinker of Indian Creek**, came home, things were very different. The boys were grown and married, life was stable and I made darn sure that this little pup had every opportunity to get out in the field. He had long walks every day, chipmunks to chase in the back yard and of course ample hunting trips during his first season. He pointed woodcock; he pointed grouse; he pointed pheasants; he swam

and he fetched ducks. Between tests, we spend hours on the training table. We went to training days and you can bet that he tracked ducks. My copy of Joan Bailey's book, *How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves* was tattered and dog-eared. When the judges evaluated Brinker in NAT and IHDT, it was easy to see his genetic potential because of the hours afield and on the training table. Sure, he did great, but good, bad or indifferent, the judges were looking at a dog that had been given ample exposure, and that's what they really want. Maybe we should give a Prize I to the handlers who put in the most time, no matter how well the dog performs.

Hey, I'm a slow learner, but I think that I've finally figured it out. When the club let me take Brinker home, they weren't selling me a griffon; they were signing me on to be entrusted with the care and keeping of one of their valuable participants in the grand experiment that is the WPGCA Breeding Program. In a way, the dog doesn't really belong to me alone; it's the WPGCA's dog too, and I'm their lab assistant. It's a really great job; instead of a white coat, you wear camo and hunter orange. The fringe benefit package is outstanding—you need spend lots of time afield and in the water with your pup; you have to go hunting again and again—birds and waterfowl. But it is a commitment, and you've got to get it done or not sign on. So what about you? Whether Pup will be your first griff or number ten, before you sign on the dotted line, be sure that you're ready to do your part.



**Long Time Club Member Ralph Nodine
1922-2011**

Joan Bailey

Ralph was involved with Griffons for many years. I met him at our first field test in Maine in 1971. We had a training clinic on Friday and a NAT on Saturday. He brought one Griffon with him but I don't think he ran her; he was there to check out this new thing called a Field Test.

He showed up at a lot of events over the years. His wife, Dorothy was in charge of our records from the Orthopedic Foundation for Hip Dysplasia, where we used to x-ray our dogs.

You'll find a great photo of Ralph and his dog, **BENT PINE'S ABERDEEN** at a test in upstate New York in 1976 on page 140 in the Griffon book.

I had a letter from Ralph about a year ago; he was living with a daughter and her family and his biggest lament was "there aren't any dogs here."

Upon reading his obituary I found out a lot I never knew: He graduated from Harvard and received degrees from two other universities. He had a wide interest one of which was teaching. Another was for the outdoors. For many years he was a registered Maine Guide! He left this earth September 8, 2011.

My Exposure to Exposure Days

by
Tracy Dilly



Hey Mom! Watch Me Now!

No hesitation here. With a duck as incentive, an enthused **Cedar of Sandhill** plunges into the pond during an Iowa training/exposure day.

Photo by Tracy Dilly

I had never hunted when I first met my husband, Kirk, almost three years ago, and really had no idea what a hunting dog was or how vital they were to a bird hunter. Kirk learned about the griffon breed and the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of American (WPGCA) shortly before we met, and I remember him bringing up the subject of getting a griffon many times while we were dating. Fast forward to the last Saturday in June of this year. Kirk and I were on our way to Turtle Lake WI to pick up the newest member of our family, Cedar. In preparing for our new addition I had done some research on the griffon breed and the WPGCA. I was very impressed with the breeding process and the



What's a Duck? Oh Boy! I Can Chase It!

Colonel Buckley of Sandhill gets an introduction to swimming and chasing a duck thanks to veteran judge, Greg Hurtig, who is helping Buckley's owner, Tim McCarthy, with a lesson in exposure to water and game.

Photo by Tracy Dilly

club's dedication to producing quality litters. I went with Kirk to the Heartland Chapter spring test and was able to get a glimpse of the passion that the leaders and members of the club have for griffons. Being able to attend exposure days at John and Vivian Pitlo's home in Belleview, Iowa allowed me to see first-hand how dedicated and committed the club is to its members.

Because of another obligation, I had to miss the morning session, so I called Kirk to find out how Cedar had done. He informed me that Cedar had performed very well and had even gone swimming. I said "Yeah, right". We had been trying to get Cedar into the water with little success ever since we first brought him home. He would wade in to his chest, stop, have a drink, and then quickly head for dry land. Kirk assured me that he was telling the truth and would prove it later that afternoon. When I arrived at Pitlo's I heard the story of Cedar and his swim across the stream. With a lot of coaxing and encouragement, Cedar had gone from the shore to Kirk, who was waiting on the other side of the stream. Kirk said the best part was the cheers and excitement from the rest of the group when Cedar made it to him.

Later that afternoon we went to a small pond where Cedar and his littermate **Colonel Buckley** would get more practice in the water. A duck was used to get the puppies excited about getting in the water. A rope was tied to the duck so that it couldn't escape and was then thrown into the water so the puppies could retrieve it. Considering the fact that I had never seen Cedar swim until now, I was amazed at how comfortable the puppies seemed to be in the water. Cedar was a little hesitant at first, but by the end of the afternoon he was leaping off the bank into the pond.

The next morning the puppies got more experience with tracking a bird on land. Kirk had always told me that the desire and the ability to track a bird is a trait that the club emphasizes in their breeding program. I was skeptical that Cedar would be able to find a bird and bring it back to us without ever really being exposed to birds before this time. I was once again amazed at how well the puppies did at finding the bird and bringing it back to us. They didn't get distracted or bored and worked hard until they found the bird. It was exciting to see how proud Cedar was to run back to us with a hen pheasant in his mouth.

As great as it was to watch Cedar jump in the water and bring back a duck for the first time, the thing that impressed me most about the weekend was the support and helpfulness shown by the other members of the club. I've known people who have gotten dogs from breeders, however they never had the support and encouragement from a group like the WPGCA. I saw veteran griffon owners and leaders of the group answering questions and giving tips and guidance to not only the owners of the puppies, but also to the owners of the older dogs that were also there that weekend. They took time to work with the owners and their dogs, demonstrating different training techniques and offering advice. I walked away from the weekend in Belleview, Iowa with a new appreciation and love for the griffon breed and the WPGCA.



EARLY REMINDER

WPGCA membership dues for calendar year 2012 are due by January. Have a family member or friend who might enjoy a griffon? A membership in the WPGCA is only \$40/year and makes a great holiday or birthday gift.

Back Yard Duck Hunt

by
Rem DeJong



Summer Duck Work

Backyard shade on a hot summer day makes a great spot for dry-land waterfowl retrieving practice. Here Sidney helps “Grampa Rem” train **Brinker of Indian Creek** to fetch from a boat.

Photo by Hope DeJong

The decoys were set and legal shooting time was only minutes away. I slipped three shells into the 12-gauge and hunkered down in the blind while Brinker shivered with anticipation beside me. Without moving the gun, I clicked the safety off-on, just to be sure it was on safe. I was nearly knocked off my seat! One “click-click” and Brinker soared over the top of the blind and went bounding out into the decoys, head swiveling wildly as he searched for the ducks. A few expletives later, he sulked back inside and

begrudgingly slid to a down position after couple stern commands and a push on the neck. It was a memorable if dubious beginning to the waterfowl season.

The recollection of that morning in a ground blind along the shallow flats of Green Bay was on my mind when my new Mommarsh duck boat arrived. It's a low profile craft with flip-up doors designed so the hunter can lay low in the marsh and sit up to shoot. It sports a small deck on the back and a cockpit space behind the hunter for the dog. It seemed the ideal boat for going after wary ducks that like to loaf on the rocky flats with sparse vegetation that makes regular blinds ineffective. It's supposed to be very stable, but the thought of Brinker bounding over the side at the first flip of a blind door, made me realize that some training was in order.

Fortunately, a good portion of preparing a dog for working out of a duck boat can be accomplished in the back yard. To begin with, the training doesn't require a boat at all. It starts with sit and stay and steady-at-the-blind training, which are all thoroughly described in Joan Bailey's book: *How to Have the Best Trained Gun Dog*. Assuming that you've trained the basics of "Fetch" and "Whoa", teaching duck boat manners is a simple extension of what Joan has detailed in Chapter 10. But the duck boat is a new environment, and although it may seem obvious to a human, transferring the retrieving behavior from standing on dry ground to working in a boat needs to be broken down into steps for the dog. Brinker already knew how to do a basic retrieve, return to me, sit holding the dummy and then let go at the command, "Give."

We began with the duck boat on the back lawn. I worked backwards—beginning with delivery of the bird (dummy in this case) to hand in the boat, and then practiced jumping out of the boat to begin a retrieve. This "backwards learning" is a common behavioral principle. The dog learns one simple behavior and you gradually chain more behaviors together into a complex pattern. In this case, the end goal was to have Brinker jump out of the boat at the command "Fetch!", swim out and get the duck, then bring it back, climb on the dog deck at the rear of the boat, drain off on the deck first, and then step into the dog compartment and deliver the duck to hand., thus getting us the duck while keeping the boat relatively dry.

Much of this training can be completed in the back yard with the boat on the lawn. First, I just had Brinker climb in and sit in the dog compartment. With a couple pats on the floor and using the command, "Kennel." He quickly got the hang of jumping in and sitting down in the dog compartment. Next, I had him jump on the back deck from the lawn, whoa there and then step down into the dog compartment. From then on, he only got a reward if he first jumped on the deck, stood there and then entered the dog compartment. Once he was comfortable with that, I sat in the boat and had him get on board.

The retrieving was an easy step to add on. I had him "kennel" in the boat; then I got out and placed a dummy on the lawn. (Brinker was already accustomed to sitting while I hid dummies during his basic retriever training.) I returned to the boat, climbed in and then gave him the fetch command. He returned and stood next to me, but with a hand pat or two on the dog deck, he quickly jumped on the deck, stood until released, and then hopped into the dog compartment and gave the dummy on command.

It only took a couple sessions and he had the routine down pat. Sit in the compartment; wait for the fetch command; get the dummy and enter the boat via the rear dog deck. Now we were ready for some water. Brinker seldom rides in a boat, so we first

just went for a summer paddle on a nearby backwater. Every time he got in the boat, he climbed aboard via the back deck. I parked the boat with the stern firmly wedged against the shore, climbed in and ordered Brinker to “Kennel.” He hopped up onto the deck and then into the dog compartment. My companion tossed dummies into the pond, and Brinker automatically made the retrieves via the back deck. Most of the water drained harmlessly off on the deck and not into the cockpit. Of course doing this with dummies and doing it with real ducks are two different things, but the steps from here are exactly as Joan lays out in Chapter 10 “Steady at the Blind”. By the time hunting season rolled around in October, I felt reasonably confident that we could hunt the marsh without fear of capsizing or filling the boat with water from a soggy dog.



Bring on the Ducks!

With some high and dry practice in the backyard, Brinker is now ready to hunker down for waterfowl in a fully cammoed-up duck boat.

Photo by Dave Read

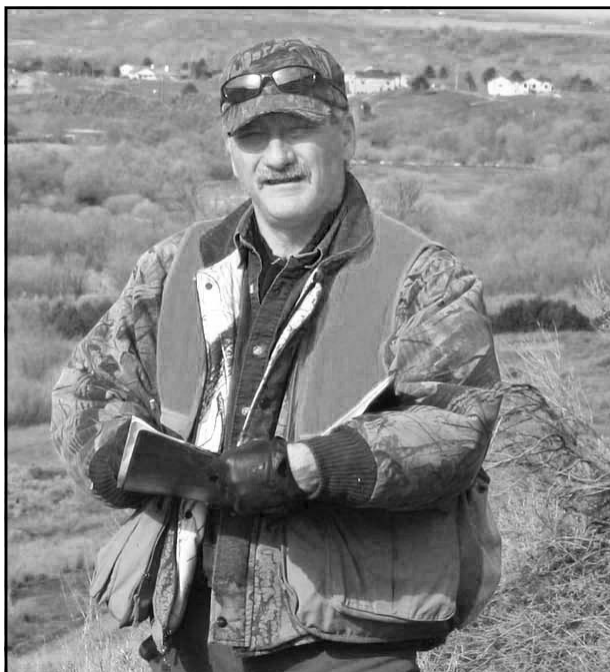
Facing Page: Andy Rupp, photographed while serving as an Apprentice Judge for a Rocky Mountain Test, takes over as WPGCA Treasurer in January 2012.

NEW TREASURER IN 2012

by
Jim Seibel

I believe it was either 1988 or 89 that Joan Bailey asked me if I would be interested in becoming the club treasurer. Well, that is long enough to be in that position. I asked Andy Rupp if it was okay for me to nominate him for the job. He said he would be honored and in the Aprill BOD meeting in Baraboo, the board voted a unanimous yes. So on January 1 of 2012 Andy will take over the job as national club treasurer for both the WPGCA and the WPGCA E&RF. Between now (mid Sept.) and then Andy and I will be gradually making the transfer. The biggest change to members will be that they will be sending their dues to Andy and not to me. For the majority of members, that is the first time this has happened. I am very confident that Andy will do an excellent job as he is an experienced self-employed businessman. His background is much better for the job than mine. I know that you will all give him great support and this year everyone will pay his/her dues by the end of January, PLEASE.

I cannot resist the urge to reminisce a bit over the last twenty plus years in this job. When Joan asked me to serve as treasurer, I had no idea how much involvement it required. The treasurer is also a member of the BOD. The club has made some great leaps over those years and it has been a privilege to be a part of it. Probably the greatest challenge to the BOD was when Joan, after many years of spearheading everything that went on in the club, decided to step down. We knew that no one person could pick up all the slack and it would take many of us to contribute. Our president, Gary Pool, being a manager of a large sugar plant, definitely knows how to delegate, and after some early blips things fell in line.



I will not be altogether inactive as I will continue on the Breeding Committee and judging. I will also be a member of the BOD. I believe that because no one else wants the job, I will continue as "puppy czar"(Joan named it). I should add that John Pitlo has gotten more involved with placing the puppies and that helps a lot. What I will miss most is the letters or notes that come with the dues that express how much people appreciate the dogs they have. Please keep that up when you send your dues to Andy; It is the best part of the treasurer's job.

BOD Meeting Summary Baraboo, WI – April, 2011

by
John Pitlo

The annual BOD meeting was held in conjunction with the Heartland Spring Test and the Judges Seminar in Baraboo, WI.

Present were:

President Gary Pool,
Vice-President John Pitlo,
at large board members Ken Hurtig and Rick Molt,
Secretary Judy Coil, and
Treasurer Jim Seibel

Absent was :

Board member Glenn Lehrer.

A discussion was had regarding the packet of information that the WPGCA sends out to new people who are requesting information about our club. Rem DeJong volunteered to re-write the First Contact Letter and the New Owner Letter. Secretary Judy Coil will create new sample breeders agreement for the info packets (these to be ready for the 2012 Pheasant Fest).

Lyla Lehrer presented a written report on the Registrars Activities. These included new kennel names, number of pups registered, and testing results.

Discussion was had about the information that should be included in the Breeding Committee's report that is published annually in the GDS.

The Breeding Committee recommended and the BOD unanimously approved promoting Andy Rupp and Anna Ziedens to full judge status.

The BOD discussed the status of the various regional chapters and their financial condition. John McDunn has volunteered to be the new Test Chair for the Rocky Mountain Chapter and his wife Angie will take over the fund raising. Mike Reilly was thanked for his services as Test Chair. There were no changes at other regional chapters.

There was discussion on the DNA Program in which we are cooperating with Cornell University. At the time of the BOD meeting, 93 dogs have had blood drawn and all of that data are archived at Cornell. The BOD expresses thanks to all the owners for bringing their dogs to the various sites in order to get this accomplished. The BOD is also very appreciative to all the club members for volunteering their assistance for various parts of this project such as photography, measuring dogs, recording data, and making sure all the blood and paperwork was shipped to Cornell University in a timely manner.

Upcoming Events

Pheasant Fest 2012 February 17—19

**Kansas City Convention Center
Kansas City, Missouri.**

Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic is a trade show that will focus on wildlife conservation, upland game bird hunting (pheasant and quail), dog training, and wildlife habitat management and restoration. The WPGCA will have a booth there.

Come Join Us!

Rem DeJong addressed the BOD and asked for any articles, pictures, and ideas that can be used in the GDS. Greg Hurtig has stepped down as GDS editor and the BOD thanked him for his services. We are looking for new GDS editorial assistance.

Discussion on Dr. Dostal's book. The work is about $\frac{3}{4}$ complete, and Jim Seibel is contacting Armando Carlos to see if he knows someone that can finish the translation task.

Pheasant Fest is in Kansas City in February. Heartland and NE Chapters will help in the purchase of a new banner for the booth (up to \$2000).

The BOD discussed the work that Glenn Lehrer and his helpers have been doing in Montana to promote hunting for youths. It was reported that an article will be written on the subject.

BOD discussed changing the WPGCA advertisement in *Gun Dog Magazine* to include the contact persons from each chapter: Rick Molt in the NE; Ken Hurtig in the Heartland; Bob Matsouka in the Rocky Mountain; and Dennis Carlson in the North West.

BOD discussed next years judges seminar; Jim Seibel and John Pitlo are working to get a presenter who has strong expertise in dog conformation to do the seminar.



Really Versatile Gun Dogs!

YIKES!! Don't get too close guys! That's a mighty big snapping turtle that Aleksander of Cattatil Storm (left) and Coco of the Sandhill (Right) are pointing while on a summer outing with owners Jon and Judy Coil of Minnesota. No word on whether they dined on turtle soup that evening.

Photo by Jon Coil