

# *The Gun Dog Supreme*

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

<http://www.gundogssupreme.org>

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## **Look What I've Got!**

**Francesca of Dutchman's Hollow completes a difficult track during  
a summer Michigan Training Day**

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

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## **LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

### *Greetings:*

It always seems like a bit of a lull when the spring tests wrap up and fall hunting season still seems so far away. It's also puppy time with the excitement and anticipation of new litters. There was only one on the ground at the time of this writing, but the Breeding Committee has been busy as you'll learn from an informative article by Jim Seibel on the past and future of the breeding program.

The Board of Directors Meeting report gives a quick summary of changes and actions by the board.

Jim Seibel also reports on a very significant Judges Seminar, featuring Dr. Claudia Orlandi. You'll likely be seeing more material in future issues about the significance of canine structure and its importance for breeding quality hunting dogs.

Larry Semmens offers some comfort to anyone smarting from disappointing test performance. I'm sure that many readers can identify with his pain. He offers a good perspective for getting through it—basically, go hunting and have fun with your dog. That's good advice for all of us. Enjoy.

*Rem DeJong*

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## WPGCA 2012 BOD Meeting in Jerome, ID

by  
John Pitlo

The 2012 BOD meeting was held in conjunction with the judges seminar and spring field test held by the Rocky Mountain Chapter (March 30 – April 1, 2012) of the WPGCA. Present were President Gary Pool, Vice-President John Pitlo, Treasurer Andy Rupp, Secretary Judy Coil, Directors Jim Seibel, Glenn Lehrer, Rick Molt, and Ken Hurtig.

### Board Changes

There were several changes to the board over the past year. Jim Seibel resigned as Treasurer and Andy Rupp was appointed to that position; he began his duties at the beginning of the year so he could be in charge of dues, etc. Jim Seibel will remain on the Board because he is a member of the Breeding Committee. Glenn Lehrer resigned from the Board after serving for 19 years. The Board commended him and thanked him for his services. The Board appointed Ted Silver, Maine, as the new Director at large. By appointing a member from the East coast – the BOD will be well represented from all areas where we have regional clubs.

### Other Personnel Changes

Lyla Lehrer has stepped down as the clubs registrar. She has recorded all our dog's names, kennel names, and pedigrees by hand. She was the first registrar for our club and has done an outstanding job of keeping



### Eyes on the Action

Long-time WPGCA member Glenn Lehrer is stepping down from the Board of Directors.

Photo by Jerry Yeast



### **Changing of the Guard**

Lyla Lehrer (left), original WPGCA club registrar, is turning those duties over to Zeb Bueckman, who is being promoted from bird handler. Just because you're now the Registrar, Zeb, doesn't mean that you can give up bird handling. That's just the way the club works!

Photo by Ann Pool

records in our Stud Book. The Board gave her a standing ovation for her dedication and commitment to the job. Her position will be taken by Zeb Breuckman. Zeb will be working with Rick Sodja to computerize the pedigrees to make things flow easier. Robin Strathy stepped forward and will be assisting Secretary Judy Coil with answering inquiries about our dogs and sending packets to interested people.

**Apprentice Judges** There was a lengthy discussion about helping apprentice judges attend tests that were not in the area where they lived. In the end – the majority of BOD members thought it would be cost prohibitive for the club to do this. It was recognized that some regional chapters have done so and could continue to do so if the candidate was committed.

**Breeding Committee Report** The breeding committee has plans to breed 5 females this year. As of this meeting – one female has been bred, one is in season, and we are waiting on three more to come into season.

A breeding committee report will be published later in the summer with all the pertinent information.

- The Breeding Committee recommended that Greg Hurtig be elevated to a Senior Judge. Greg has judged under the supervision of all senior judges over the past 4 years. All the present senior judges gave their approval. The BOD voted unanimously to elevate Greg to Senior Judge status.
- Rick Sodja and Laurie Connell were approved as apprentices to the breeding committee. Dr. Sodja is a Wildlife Biologist employed by the U.S. Department of Interior, Geologic Survey and works in the Department of Ecology and Computer Sciences at Montana State University. Dr. Connell is a Research Professor at the University of Maine with a specialty in genetics.

## **GDS and Website**

- Larry Semmens has consented to help editors Rem DeJong and John Pitlo with the GDS. The BOD also commended Rem for his constant work with our website and keeping it up-to-date.
- Greg Hurtig reported on the health database for our dogs. He is working with Rem DeJong on developing an online report that can be imported directly into the database. They are waiting on some input from Cornell to see what they might need for information for the DNA project.

**Chapter Reports** All chapters are financially sound and are planning training days this summer.

- The Rocky Mountain Chapter has a new President – Angie McDunn.
- The North West Chapter has a new Treasurer – Harry Niles.
- The NE Chapter is in need of a new President, Treasurer and Field Test Chair.
- Heartland Chapter Training days are the first weekend in August at the John & Vivian Pitlo residence.

**PennHip** John Pitlo discussed the PennHip program and compliance by dog owners.

- To date, we have 120 dogs in our PennHip database.
- Our compliance rate is nearly 90% which the BOD thought was pretty good.
- John has sent letters to all owners who have not complied with the requirement they committed to. BOD also decided that if an owner did not comply with the PennHip or testing requirement – they would not be eligible for a new pup.

**Cornell University DNA Study** There was discussion on sending certificates of appreciation to those members who have participated in the Cornell DNA Study. Lots of discussion but no decision was made.

**Pheasant Fest** There was a lengthy discussion about the clubs participation in Pheasant Fest. Jim Crouse had new banners made because we were constantly getting confused with the German Wirehair Group. There was discussion on whether or not we were gaining new members because of our presence at the Fest. The next Pheasant Fest will be in Minneapolis, MN, the first weekend in Feb., 2013. The club participated in early booth reservation and was able to save 20% in booth costs. Members living in the Minneapolis area will be contacted to help work the booth and bring their dogs in for people to look at.

**Scoring Coat** Discussion was held on the uniformity of scoring dog coats.





### **Holding Our Future—The Ash Coulee A Litter**

Breeders Tom and Cheri Coombes show off the first WPGCA litter of 2012 , Three males and one female whelped April 15th. Sire is **Friederick of Dutchman's Hollow** and dam is **Amazing Grace of Arrowrock**.

Photo by Cheri Coombes

### **REVIEW OF BREEDING PROGRAM**

by

**Jim Seibel**

This is a review of the WPGCA breeding program as I have observed it and participated in it since about 1992. When I was asked to be on the breeding committee by Joan Bailey and Joe Nadeker, we were in the early years of the Fousek injection. **Erik od Jezerak** had been used extensively as a stud and **Dan Cerniky** had recently been imported as well. **Axa od Pastejriko** had been bred to **Erik od Jezerak** and soon would be bred to Dan twice. Erik was bred to **Mahaska's Merry Susan** (Suzie), a Griffon owned by Dr. Tom Whitley . These matings were for the purpose of overcoming the weaknesses that were identified in the previous twenty plus years. The club had tried importing many Griffons from various European countries with only limited success. Some of the problems to be overcome were temperament, soft coats, lack of game drive and bad hips. One problem being addressed would result in another problem cropping up. Hence the decision was made to import the Cesky Fousek (CF). The history behind that decision is well covered in Joan Bailey's book, *Griffon: Gun Dog Supreme*.

The early breedings using the CF were a total outcross. We knew that we would get some hybrid vigor in the first generations. The challenge was to stabilize the good traits in the following generations. We did see some very good dogs as a result from the early outcrosses. However, partially due to the small number of dogs being bred, the methods that could be utilized were limited. To be able to use line breeding we needed to establish enough dogs with the desired traits to be able to do line breed-

ing. We chose to breed the best to the best without getting too close. To do that, we had to import more CF genes. It became apparent that buying proven dogs was becoming more difficult. We established a relationship with Dr. Jaromir Dostal, who was the chief geneticist for the CF breed club in the Czech Republic. John Pitlo and I were selected to go to the Czech Republic to meet with Dr. Dostal and to identify lines of the CF breed that were compatible with our Griffon standard. This was in 2002. During this visit we established that the most efficient and effective way to get the genes of proven males was to buy frozen semen. Dr. Dostal's son, Pavel, was in the business with a Czech Republic veterinarian to collect and freeze semen from cattle. Pavel and his partner wanted to include canine in their business as well. We agreed to purchase frozen semen from a number of proven CF stud dogs that Dr. Dostal recommended due to their being most like the Griffons we desired to produce. We returned to the Czech Republic in 2006 and chose a few more studs.

For the next several years, we bought frozen semen from the CR and used it in our breeding program. Starting around 2009, we began to identify male dogs bred in the USA that could be used in our breeding program. In the next two years, 2010 and 2011, we used mostly domestic males as our stud dogs. I note here that a very important factor in that decision was that the CF club had stopped evaluating hips. They had used OFA as their standard for several generations and felt that they had reduced hip dysplasia to below 2% of their dogs and could tell the quality of hips just by the way a dog moved. At the same time, we saw an increase in hip dysplasia in pups that had a high percentage of CF genes. We also had started using the PennHip method for evaluating hips. We have followed the rule of using only males and females whose hip quality as measured by Pennhip was in the upper 50% of the Griffon breed. That rule pretty much discounted the use of CF males who had not been evaluated by the PennHip method. There was one exception in a male imported by Armando Carlos in Cambridge, Ont. Canada. The dog, Baron od Kostilku, was evaluated via the PennHip method and scored an excellent 90%. Since using dogs in the upper 50% of the PennHip scores, we have seen a significant improvement in the hips of our pups.

Other traits that have improved significantly in the years since the CF blood was introduced are game drive, coats, movement and stamina. With more game drive has come dogs who are somewhat more challenging to handle. We are now careful to select for cooperation as well. However, the greatest challenge, in my opinion, is to manage the gene pool with so few dogs bred each year.

We have attempted to keep the inbreeding/line-breeding at a level that will not be detrimental. Dr. Jaromir Dostal taught us to keep it below 6.0 unless we have an exceptional male that has proven to be prepotent regarding some very desirable traits. We have attempted to use mostly phenotype to choose our males and females to this point. For example, we have used Boone of Salmon River, a male with 90% PennHip to breed to females who may be hard driving, because Boone has demonstrated that he is very calm while still demonstrating excellent game drive. It is too early to tell if that has been effective, but time will tell. In choosing between two male littermates that have scored prize I in the IHDT, we have chosen to use the one with the more calm demeanor.



Categorizing our breeding program through the years is difficult because we are still attempting to stabilize our breed's positive traits and therefore we have used a little inbreeding, a lot of outcrossing and some corrective breeding as determined by our evaluations in the field and our judgment of structure. Mostly, we look at the way a dog moves in the field to determine if he/she is structurally sound. We have selected strongly for proper jaw structure, i.e. teeth placement, to avoid under shot or over shot teeth. Eyes have been evaluated for either ectopic or entropic by observation at the time of judging conformation.



**DNA Blood Draw at Iowa Training Day**

Photo by Jerry Yeast

A very exciting program has been established with Cornell University to sample blood from each of our dogs for the purpose of DNA analysis. We hope that in time we will be able to identify the genes that determine the critical positive and negative traits. We are hopeful that someday soon we will be able to use the DNA analysis of our dogs to determine which dogs best match up for breeding purposes. We will need to improve our health records for each dog so as to best utilize this technique. A project has been started to create an improved

form and appoint a person to work with dog owners to keep up the records.

We are on the cusp of an exciting program that will get us started in determining the DNA of some of our foundation dogs. More details will be available as this very important break-through develops to fruition.

We are now moving into a new era in selecting our breeding stock. We will always use the methods of the past such as field testing, conformation judging and coefficient of inbreeding as part of our system. The exciting information attained in the future via DNA analysis will help us greatly in selecting away from genetic defects and selecting for positive traits. This will not happen immediately; however, it seems more feasible each day as new methods are developed and the Cornell study moves forward. We are fortunate that we have two members who can "speak the language" of genetics and have the very important contacts to get this started. Dr. Laurie Connell started the process and Dr. Rick Sojda has joined in the very important role of communicating with the staff at Cornell University Veterinary Research. Each of you who have brought your dogs for blood draw, measuring and health reports is essential to the future success of the program and hence, the breed. Many thanks to Laurie and Rick and all of you who helped us get the program off the ground. Plans are being made to have the Cornell staff present information regarding the project and an update as to the progress at the 2013 seminar. The details of that presentation and the time and place will be announced as they develop.

## Judges Seminar 2012 Report

by  
**Jim Seibel**

The judges seminar this year was planned to address a critical need in our breeding program: evaluating the structure of our dogs. The process for evaluating dogs in field performance has been the emphasis in most of the past seminars. Only occasionally have we addressed conformation judging. We believe that in order to determine if our dogs are structurally strong, we must get better at judging structure. Exterior features, such as coat are relatively easy to judge. However, proper bone structure and proportion that are not as obvious to observe with the human eye, are much more difficult to judge.

This year we were fortunate to have Dr. Cluadia Orlandi give her presentation, "Structure and Motion." The basis of her presentation was her published manual, *Practical Canine Anatomy and Movement*; Dr. Orlandi prepared the manual for the expressed purpose of teaching breeders and judges the art and science of judging canine structure and relating it to the quality of a dog's movement. Each year we try to present new information gleaned from knowledgeable people. Dr. Orlandi ranks as one of the most knowledgeable people in the area of canine structure and movement. Another reason we were so interested in bringing Dr. Orlandi to our seminar is that she is also the author of the book *The ABC's of Dog Breeding*. As with her book on structure and motion, this book is a tool for learning. Both books are presented as workbooks to be studied and applied to practical dog breeding and judging. Nowhere have I seen a course so well designed for the serious dog enthusiast. (See her website at: <http://abcsofdogbreeding.com/anatomy%20order.htm>.)

Graciously, Dr. Orlandi spent additional time with the breeding committee listening to and critiquing our methodology. Her approach is so none-judgmental and encouraging that we all came away with renewed dedication to our task. I should add that Dr. Orlandi was very complementary of our group's enthusiasm and our goal of producing dogs that meet the original purpose of the breed. She encouraged us to not lose sight of that goal. She also agreed to be a continuing consultant to the breeding committee. We are sure to take her up on that on a regular basis. Dr. Orlandi's book has been made available to all judges and apprentice judges as a training tool. (Also available at: <http://abcsofdogbreeding.com/anatomy%20order.htm>.)

During her presentation Dr. Orlandi covered the essential areas of understanding and evaluating the structure of our dogs. At the end of the presentation, we evaluated several dogs, hands on, with Dr. Orlandi guiding each judge/ apprentice judge. She provided some methods that are described in her book for measuring shoulder and rear angulation. We also were shown how to measure the length of those bones. We were taught the importance of the relationship between these measurements and correct bone structure. The following two days in the field found us all attempting to apply what we had learned, and we soon became aware that each of us will need to repeatedly practice



### **Judges learn to evaluate canine structure.**

Canine breeding expert, Dr. Claudia Orlandi demonstrates how to assess canine structure as senior judges Greg Hurtig and Glenn Lehrer look on.

Photo by John Pitlo

the application on our own dogs in order to be able to become adequate judges of structure. However, it will become more and more critical as we move forward in our effort to improve our dogs.

I believe that we need to apply this knowledge of conformation to a review of our breed standards. Most judges could not recite the breed standard as it is written. Some years ago the BOD considered adopting the Cesky Fousek as the new standard for the WPG. We need to reconsider and determine if that is an accurate description of the dog we are trying to produce. We realize that breed standards for versatile dogs need to be sufficiently flexible to allow for reasonable variation in non-critical traits such as length of coat. Some day we may be able to tighten the

standards; however for now we need to be able deal with reasonable variations in some traits. As Dr. Dostal always said "length of coat doesn't hunt." In other words, if the trait does not affect the performance or soundness of the dog, don't dwell on it.

Now it is time to apply what we learned in a manner that will allow us to become ever better at evaluating all the critical traits of the WPG. That includes a review of the breed standard. We will need to begin to make structural measurements for both front and rear angulation as well as bone length. A time and place for this will need to be determined. These measurements are not part of any current Griffon breed standard. The BOD and judges have seen the need for having it as part of the standard. It will take time to collect enough data to set a reasonable range for these measurements, however the sooner we begin the better.

## After the Test by Larry Semmens



### Surprises Await

Larry and **Aniak of Wolf Fork Canyon** pose before their IHDT. What you expect isn't always what you get, but that's hardly the end of the line.

Photo by Robin Strathy

### My Dog and I didn't do so well at the test, now what?

I have been a WPGCA member for about 12 years and have tested two dogs in Natural Ability and Intermediate Hunting Dog Tests. Additionally I have participated as an apprentice judge in many tests, so I have seen a fair number of dogs at tests. I really like being at tests, especially if I am not running a dog.

Our Natural Ability Test results were both Prize I, but neither Intermediate Hunting Dog Tests was very good. The first IHDT was with **Glacier Point of Auger Falls**; when we didn't do well, it was very disappointing. I felt the sting of failure and honestly it took quite a while to get over it. I had worked really hard training with my dog and I thought he would do well at the test. It wasn't until the hunting season that fall that I

realized with certainty that I had a pretty good dog in spite of our poor test performance. At the test, he wouldn't retrieve and actually tossed a duck up in the air and pulled out feathers about 15 feet away from me. While hunting, he had retrieved chukars to hand from hundreds of feet down the mountain and quail from a long way

downstream in the fast-moving Snake River. In the test, he wouldn't track; yet when hunting, he was truly amazing at tracking wounded Hungarian partridge and chukars. He pointed fine in the test, but the truth is he was not such a strong pointer while hunting, probably due to catching some wild ptarmigan his first season, but we had a great time hunting together anyway. I learned how to deal with him and he became more cooperative as he aged. The test was a humbling experience, but I got over it and Glacier got neutered. I had tried to warn him about this, but at the time he was in that teenage stage and just didn't listen, apparently.

One thing that I try to keep in mind is that the WPGCA testing program is not a field trial. It is the evaluation wing of our breeding program. The purpose is to measure how well the breeding program is performing in consistently producing quality hunting dogs and to provide data for making future breeding decisions. As owners and handlers, it's our responsibility to do everything that we can to help our dogs develop their innate potential. That means plenty of exposure to game, putting the time in on the training table with retrieving, and getting some water work with ducks. If an owner hasn't invested the time, then the judges have a difficult time evaluating the dog's qualities. But there are times when you've done all that and the test still goes poorly; that's what makes it hard to accept.

There are many factors that influence how well a team does at the test. The Natural Ability Test is intended to assess the inherited traits of the dog. These traits can be hidden on the day of the test by factors, somewhat at least, unrelated to breeding. Being around so many other dogs and people at the test site is not the normal experience for most handlers and dogs. Most handlers feel excitement and stress at the test. Dogs pick up on this along with everything else going on and may behave in ways the handler has never seen before. Even more importantly, the dog may never behave that way again either.

This year, my pup **Aniak of Wolf Fork Canyon** was tested IHDT. She is normally very cooperative and eager to please. At the test she was attempting to drag me around on the leash, something she has not done at any other time. It was a clue to me that there could be some surprises coming. Sure enough she didn't track, even though the two previous practice days she tracked pheasants beautifully. After she didn't track, Senior Judge, Jim Seibel, commented that, at the tests, dogs will fail to do things we know they will do and then do things at which we expect them to fail. She took out a pheasant or two during the pointing exercise and wouldn't retrieve them. She doesn't usually point pen raised birds, so lack of a point wasn't completely unexpected. The biggest surprise of the day was at the water. All the water around home had been in solid form for six months so we came to the test site a couple days early to reacquaint her to water. The previous two days she was very reluctant at the water, forcing me to wade around barefoot just to get her to swim after a duck. The day of the test, when it was over 70 degrees, she went in the water just fine and did OK with tracking the duck. Prior to the test, I was reasonably sure she wasn't going to do this.

Because of my previous experience with less than perfect performance at the test, this time I was just a little disappointed, not devastated. I know that my girl can do all of the things required at the test, she just didn't do it that day. It happens to a lot of good dogs. We will continue to work on retrieving and drills to encourage cooperation. My expectations are that she will continue to improve in the field and that she will be a great companion, hopefully for the next 10 years or more.

If our dogs do well at the test, that is great and something to be very pleased about. A team that can do everything at the IHDT is something special for sure. If the test didn't go so well though, it is no reason to be disappointed for long. A few screw-ups here and there under the artificial conditions of a test may disqualify a dog from earning a prize, but we hunt birds, not ribbons. The vast majority of our dogs have what it takes to be excellent hunting dogs and family companions. Maturity and exposure will bring it out. Taking the dog to the field as much as possible is the key. A couple of birds in bag as a result of putting it all together will do wonders for fading any bad memories from a test.

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## Summer Projects

by  
Rem DeJong

Never mind those long-forgotten New Year's resolutions, what about some summer projects? Maybe you're still smarting a bit from your dog's less-than-sterling performance in a spring WPGCA Intermediate Hunting Dog Test. Or maybe the narcotic of time has distorted your recollection of ol Griff's performance last fall. Remember the time he when charging ahead and flushed all those birds while you were yelling and blowing your whistle to no avail? No? Maybe your buddies can refresh your memory for you. Or what about the time that you were hunkered down in the blind, and those circling mallards were making their final approach? You were all set to blast 'em when ol Griff went bounding out of the blind into the middle of the dekes. There went the dream of grilled marinated mallard breast, flaring off into the early morning sky. Back then you swore that you'd do some training before next fall. (You also swore some other stuff, but kids read this publication too, so we can't print that.) Well, it's summer now and this is your chance to make things ready for next Fall.

Here are two recommended training projects. Neither one is part of the IHDT, but a version of each is included in the Utility Hunting Test. Now you may never plan on completing the UHT, but training for these portions of the test can make your dog a better hunter and could save his life.

The first command is the "Drop" command. I began working on this command after a scary experience on a late-season South Dakota hunting trip last fall. I was circling

around the far end of some cover crop with my dog Brinker of Indian Creek while our hunting companions began driving down a small drainage ditch from the other end. Brinker got on a pheasant track and the bird made a beeline through the cutover grass and straight toward a section road about 200 yards away. An 18 wheeler grain truck was barreling toward us with a plume of dust billowing behind. I whistled and yelled, but to no avail. When Brinker is in hot pursuit, breaking off is not an option. Fortunately, the bird sensed the approaching truck and veered right instead of going up the embankment. As the truck passed, the long-tailed rooster sailed across the road behind the truck and Brinker stood panting on the roadside. Only then did he heed my whistle and return. I was shaken by that close call, and so I began the training. We've a long way to go, but this training cannot be hurried and I hope to be much more ready come the opener.

Ed Bailey showed me the "Drop" or "Down" command many years ago with my first griffon, Ruff. The training technique is detailed in Chapter 9 of *The Training and Care of the Versatile Hunting Dog* by Sigbot Winterhelt and Edward Bailly. That publication



### **Drop!**

I used a training table as a first step in getting Brinker to flatten out with head between paws on command. Here he's progressed to where he will lay still without hand on neck. Note the pinch collar.

Photo by Rem DeJong

is hard to come by, but fortunately, an up-to-date coverage of the command is provided in Chapter 7 of Joan Bailey's recent book *How to Have the Best Trained Gun Dog*, available from Swan Valley Press or Amazon.com.

Joan entitles Chapter 7 as "Drop—the Ultimate Command." She cautions that one should not begin this training until the dog is fully trained in the "sit", "stay", and "heel" commands and all retrieving training covered in earlier chapters. She also recommends short training sessions followed by releasing and playing with the dog. As I've worked with my dogs on the command, I see why this is good advice. For the dog, when you make him drop flat on the ground with head between paws, you are asserting your dominance and control. It's not fun for him at all. When a session is done, both Brinker and Burley tear around the yard playing and seeking reassurance. As with many commands, training for "Drop" is a step by step process that cannot be hurried. Joan lays out the process in detail, so I won't repeat it in this brief article.



### **OK You've made your point ! I'll do it, but I don't have to like it!**

Pressure on the neck is applied if the dog attempts to raise his head. He quickly learns that by lying still there is no pressure. Once this step is mastered we move to off-leash and introducing distractions. Short, daily sessions with play time at the end make the training more tolerable

Photo by Rem DeJong





### **Bennie Stay!**

**Buckeye B of the Midnight Sun** a.k. Bennie, has all he can do to stand still for owner Jim Crouse as two training assistants prepare to shoot and toss a duck into the pond. Jim is taking advantage of a Heartland Chapter Michigan training day to get some work in with Bennie. Training days are a great venue for getting some assistance, advice, and some ducks to use for training back home.

Photo by Rem DeJong

“Steady at the Blind” can be another great summer training project. Even when it’s hot, you can be doing some training and keeping your dog comfortable at the same time. Again, I refer you to Joan’s book *How to Have the Best Trained Gun Dog*. Chapter 10 provides a detailed coverage. You can handle many of the initial steps by yourself, such as navigating decoys and basic retrieving of dummies and dead ducks. Later steps require some assistance and participation by others when you get to firing a gun and training the dog to remain steady while others are shooting. A summer WPGCA training day can be a great way both to do some of the training and to acquire some ducks to work with at home.

By working on these commands now, you and your dog will be a better prepared hunting team. Hunting season isn’t all that far away, so why not start working on getting ready now?



### Fixing the Problem

No matter how hard you try, sometimes you run into behavior issues. Mike Chlapaty knows all too well from dealing with retrieving challenges from **Flapjack Frankie of Dutchman's Hollow**. Here he gets some direction from senior judge, Jim Seibel, at a Michigan training day. They're using a check cord to make sure that "Jack" delivers to hand. If you're experiencing training troubles, come to a training day or contact the club for help. We can talk or put you in touch with an experienced handler in your area.

Photo by Rem DeJong

## Upcoming Events

### Tests

**Heartland Fall Test**—Mazomanie, WI September . Sept 7-9, 2012 See web page or contact Andy Yeast, Test Chair (515)986-0891.

**Northwest Griffon Club**—Silver Creek, Washington (20 miles east of Chehalis) Sept 14 - 16, 2012

**Northeast Chapter Fall Test**—Springport, ME. No other details at press time. See web page for update.

### Exposure/Training Days

**Heartland Chapter Exposure Days—Michigan:** generally held monthly June through September. See Web page or contact Jim Crouse (614)562-1860.

**Iowa:** August 4&5 at the John & Vivian Pitlo residence (563)599-2487 email: jvpitlo@iowatelecom.net

**Northwest Griffon Club**— July 28th at 8:00 near Monroe, WA. Contact: Victor Woodward victorw@habitatbank.com

**Rocky Mountain Chapter Exposure/Training Day.** See below.

### Our Websites

**WPGCA website:** [www.wpgca.org](http://www.wpgca.org)

**WPGCA E & R website:** [www.gundogsupreme.org](http://www.gundogsupreme.org)

## Rocky Mountain Chapter Exposure Day, Young Hunters Event, and Expanded Training Day

We are planning an exposure day this summer, and will again showcase our dogs to the Gallatin Valley Pheasants Forever Chapter's young hunters. Our plans are similar to what we did last year. However, our hosts, Randy and Diane, have suggested adding a second day to the event. The big day is Saturday, July 28th, starting at 8 am and followed by a BBQ and potluck in the afternoon with lots of good food. Sunday would be devoted to helping each other train our older dogs and work on a few touch-up features that we all can use. Food and drink for that day will be each person's responsibility. Please put that weekend on your calendar. Also, please give one of the following folks a call or email regarding your interest and ideas for the second day's events:

Rick Sojda (TEL: 406.585.8924; EMAIL: [rsojda@bresnan.net](mailto:rsojda@bresnan.net))

JJ Conner (TEL: 406.202.3369; EMAIL: [jcbowstring@hotmail.com](mailto:jcbowstring@hotmail.com))

Randy Ross (406.285.6882; EMAIL: [tontoross@gmail.com](mailto:tontoross@gmail.com)).



### **Sandhill Littermates**

(above)

**Cedar of Sandhill** owned by Kirk Dilly, sports an unusual white coat instead of the more common grey variety. Photo by Tim McCarthy

(Below)

**Colonel Buckley of Sandhill**, owner Tim McCarthy, demonstrates affinity for water.

Photo by Judy Coil

