

# The Gun Dog Supreme

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**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

Greetings:

Happy New Year! Most of you are done with your hunting season and, if you are anything like me, are already planning your next one. There are some large changes with this year's first issue, both literally and figuratively. The first thing you should have noticed is the larger format and the color cover page. Also, Rem DeJong has finally taken off the training wheels and has handed over the editorial duties to me, Rick Sojda, and Brook Merrow. You read that correctly. It is taking three individuals to do what Rem was doing for years by himself as editor of the GDS, in addition to maintaining the club's Facebook page, Website, and YouTube channel. John Pitlo continues to do the important work of gathering test results and compiling them into the tables along with preparing the pedigrees you are so accustomed to seeing.

The other major change that has occurred is that the club made a decision last year to transition from six to four annual issues. These four issues will be published in February, May, August, and November. Test results will continue to be published in the August and February issues, as has been done in the past.

In this issue, you will find an update Joan Bailey kindly prepared and asked us to share with you in addition to an article from one of our newer members, Nicholas Long, who volunteered to write about his first-year experience with Jagger. I am sure some of you will likely relate to his story.

Even with the pandemic impacting almost every aspect of our lives this past year, some of our club chapters were able to hold summer or fall tests and those chapter reports and test results are included in this issue.

Also, similar to Rem's outgoing article in the last GDS issue, I wrote a short piece introducing myself. We all have our personal backstories with the various "forks in the road" that have led us to the place we are today. I find myself with a dog companion (he is sleeping by my side as I type this) that I have daydreamed about for a long time, and for that, I owe much to our club leadership and the dedicated members that produce these wonderful dogs.

Lastly, I would like to thank Rem for his hours of help in preparing this GDS issue. Like a mindful parent that pushes their youngster to take that maiden voyage without the training wheels, Rem has helped us in almost all aspects of this issue's preparation, from setting up the larger format and helping in the design of the new color cover page, to soliciting individuals for content, and preparing the photos you see throughout. Thank you, Rem!!

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable spring!

*Spiro Mavroidis*, Editor

**On the Cover:** Edý z Veseckých luhů or "Eider" owned by Rick Sojda. He's a 7-year old Czech import (2013) that has sired one litter for the Club. Eider pointed this late-season, adult rooster in some nice river bottom habitat just before sunset along the Yellowstone River in Eastern Montana. He has always liked posing for the camera after the retrieve.

**Photo by owner: Rick Sojda**

For information requests or to join CFNA

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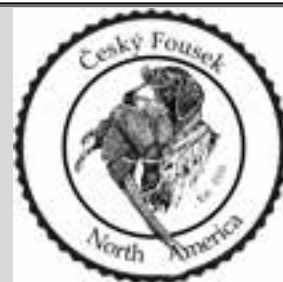
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## Joan Had a Fall... or, the Fallen is Rising Again!\*

By  
Joan Bailey

Here is some news about me for my old and new friends. In October, I fell down while getting out of bed in the middle of the night. I know I am supposed to keep my emergency pager around my neck, but unfortunately, I had left it on my nightstand that evening. I tried to get to the pager but failed. I lay there a long time, probably several hours, and my left leg became “frozen.” In the morning, my neighbor knocked on my door because she could not see any lights on at my place. She called 911. I awoke in the hospital and was then sent to a care home. Ugh! That was the worst experience, but I survived three weeks there.

Later, a good friend found a different place for me, where I remain. I am in a rehab facility with only four other patients, and it has been a godsend! It is quite comfortable, and I have a nice bedroom and bath. I eat lunch and dinner with three of the other patients. My friends from Trillium Hollow have helped me in many ways, especially bringing stuff that I need. They even brought a big dog that lives at Trillium Hollow to visit me; it used to visit me every day at home to get a treat. I also appreciate that two friends from my church have done a lot for me.

I expect to be here for six to eight months, getting my left leg stronger. Then, I will go home to Trillium Hollow to work on my next book!

P.S. Rick made the title better.

*\*(alternate title, courtesy of Rick Sojda)*



Joan Bailey and John Lundgren  
with Abby of Willow Springs

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## Cesky Fousek Lifespan Research

Please complete an anonymous survey and help us better understand our breed's longevity and health.

[ceskyfousekna.org/breed-data/canine-mortality-survey/](https://ceskyfousekna.org/breed-data/canine-mortality-survey/)



# Bird Hunting—Rediscovered

by  
**Nicholas Long**

Several years ago, I moved to the West Coast and rediscovered bird hunting. I had hunted all of my life but only hunted birds in my youth. Some twenty years later, I fell into upland birds, mostly grouse and quail. I was determined to teach myself how to pursue them, hunting for several years on foot, by bow, alone, and without a dog.

After a few years and many hard lessons, I moved again to Eastern Washington and landed in prime upland territory. Quail, pheasant, chukar, and huns were all minutes from my farm, and I even had a reservation across the street from my office. While successful that first year, I lost birds and labored hard in the hunt. Further, I realized hunting alone was less satisfying than in the company of others. There had to be a better way. While I'd flirted with the idea of getting a dog, that season pushed me over the line. I committed myself to acquiring and training a gun dog. I had no idea what I was getting into.

I had toyed with the idea of a hunting dog many times, but with an aging Labrador at home, I held off. I observed many breeds, including Pudelpointers, Griffons, and a Braque des Bourbonnais, all of which helped me decide what I wanted in a dog: a versatile hunter with a good family temperament. I have three children and a wife who has a love for Labradors. I knew I'd be changing a family rhythm, so my most pressing priority was family disposition.

When our Labrador Miles passed, leaving a hole in our family, I decided to act. While there is no replacing an old dog, a puppy does have a certain magic. With a willing family and a new farm that provided land to work a dog on, I stumbled onto Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffons. I'd been looking at Pudelpointers and Griffons, and even considered wire-coated Vizslas, as my uncle raised Vizslas when I was a child. A rough-coated dog was critical with the terrain we have around here. After a good conversation with one of the NW chapter members, the Cesky Fousek checked all the boxes.

I promptly put myself on a waiting list. This made me nervous because the idea of investing so much in a breeder

so far away was a mental challenge. I am so glad I put my faith in the club. CFNA has a passion for breeding top-notch dogs, which makes them priceless. I did not know that at the time, but I would come to see the evidence of this time and again.

As things evolved, I selected a sire and a dam and worked with the breeders to convey what we were looking



Photo by Nicholas Long

**Frosty beards**

**Nicholas Long with Jagger (Brick of Bald Eagle)**

for. We had several conversations; the process was caring and informative. When the time came to pick a puppy from the litter, I was 600 miles away from the breeders, so we had to work over the phone, another first for me. Brook of Bald Eagle kennel was excellent. We discussed the characteristics of each puppy, settling on Brick, named for his stature.

How the excitement began to build. I'd been reading about gun dogs for a year. The club's materials were exceptionally helpful in establishing an approach to training. I had committed to positive reinforcement with

an effort to keep out of the way of the dog's natural abilities. Waiting for this little bundle of potential was maddening but not unproductive. An endeavor like this requires thoughtfulness: It's a commitment to a life with a dog for 12 or more years.

As we readied the household for a new puppy, work made picking up the dog myself impractical, so my wife and daughter volunteered to get Brick. They made the trip to Bozeman, Montana, and were received warmly by Brook. A bit of time was spent getting familiar with the puppy before they began their return, with Brick spending a significant portion of the trip in my daughter's lap.

By the time he had made it to his new home, he seemed to be a part of the family already. We let him loose in the front yard where he promptly began getting familiar with the family and the yard. The connection was instantaneous. He was an affectionate puppy, bright and easily trainable. Using the clicker method, sit came easily. His intelligence was apparent, quickly figuring out that outside was for potty. He began vocalizing for the door early, and by week ten, his second week at home, he was

reliable in his request for the door. The kids and my wife and I were vigilant and prompt in supporting the puppy through his first few days. I spent as much time as I could with Brick—known as Jagger to us—specifically, in the wilderness. As I look back, you could say I over-indexed on exposure, but in the long run, it paid dividends.

Now came the challenge: I had no idea how to train a versatile dog. I had read books and successfully trained Labradors to be good family pets, but never with the skills to hunt. The one approach that really connected with me was to simply expose the dog, encourage the natural behaviors to manifest, and simply stay out of the way. I had read novice trainers could do more harm than good, so I was determined not to be that novice trainer. It's amazing how your aspirations get tied up in this little bundle of energy. Exposure walks began immediately, first with 15- to 30-minute explorations of the countryside, Jagger's nose leading the way with some guidance from me. He was off lead most of the time. I introduced him to his first quail with a dead bird planted in the front yard at week ten. In the spring here, we have rabbits, which provide a great deal of scent to train with, so I worked him



Photo by Nicholas Long

around rabbits quite a bit. Where quail would show, we worked them as well. These were sessions where Jagger could just absorb scent, and I could watch and work with him.

Being a first-time trainer, I did not know what to expect or what milestones to look for. I just tried to let Jagger do what seemed productive and what felt right. Gun work began with a .22 at week twelve in a two-person exercise with my son. One shot starting at 100 yards and continuing by every 10 yards until I reached 30. My son comforted him and presented treats the whole time. By the second exercise, the gunshots elicited an excited response. In Oregon you can hunt rabbits year-round, so I used this to connect the sound of the gun with a wonderful treat, a rabbit. Rabbits became pretty exciting for him, and his nose tracked them often. We would play a little fetch with the rabbit, and he soon began to recognize that a gunshot meant playing with great things, though the rabbits almost always got the better of him during the tracking. In one case, I watched a rabbit circle him as he had his nose to the ground. During the process, he never flinched or demonstrated any gun-shy behavior. From that point on, I always brought the .22 and would shoot from time to time to ensure he was comfortable with the noise.

As the weeks went by, Jagger became more focused on tracking and searching, and birds became more interesting. He was young and timid in approaching brush and cover, keeping close to me and running back to me when uncertain, always looking for validation and confirmation. I modeled behaviors, breaking into brush and cover and encouraging him to follow. We worked whistles and the basics: sit, stay, heel, and come. As he ranged further, I used hand and arm signals as I walked, with Jagger eventually understanding what I was doing. It was very organic.

As weeks turned to months, he really picked up on scents, tracking and developing a good nose. However, he had not pointed; the flush of bird or bunny was a surprise to him. I was worried, until around halfway to month five we were walking along a dusty trail and Jagger froze—his first point, on a

young quail not four feet from his nose. It happened so fast, I did not even recognize it at first, and I flushed the bird by accident. We were getting closer to hunting season.

Jagger's first hunting season seemed to be, at the time, a hot mess. He was bumping birds, missing them altogether, and generally chasing any non-game bird he could find. My challenge in these times was to always ensure Jagger was having fun when sometimes I was getting frustrated. In reflection, I was the hot mess and pushed the young dog too hard. We kept at it, and over time, we had a few good retrieves and a few soft points, but nothing consistent. I shot a quail once in waist-high brush with no way for Jagger to mark it. I walked forward to where I thought it was and waited. He dove in, and all I saw was brush shaking and him tunneling around. He'd promptly retrieved a quail. Progress was made in increments, not leaps. A dog was learning while I was trying to keep up.

I should have been less concerned about the excitement of getting birds in my bag during that first hunting season and simply focused on what I knew was critical—ensuring lots of exposure to wild birds. Jagger needed to learn the ropes about finding birds, himself. His lack of pointing became too big a concern to me as a rookie dog handler. I had forgotten that pointing is the instinctive freezing of the dog upon scent of game, and



Photo by Nicholas Long

that it cannot be taught. It almost always develops over time given plenty of exposure to birds combined with the natural maturing of the pup. Fostering the pup's innate cooperation to wait for the handler once it points can be encouraged through lavish praise. Actual training to hold the point is something that should probably wait in most cases until after the first hunting season, but each individual dog and handler combination is different.

As a family dog, Jagger has been great. He plays and lounges with the children and plays with my youngest like a packmate. My wife has her evening companion as she relaxes, and I have a partner that has bonded with me in a way I never anticipated. My experience with Ceskies has been a grand learning journey, and one I have come to appreciate. Jagger's affections and desire to please have made his introduction to the family a joy. We can't imagine life without him. I now have a hunting buddy, a teammate, and a source of infinite affection. Getting Jagger is one of the best decisions I've ever made.



Photo by Nicholas Long

**A dog's job is never done—spreading the love!**

## Northeast Fall Test 2020

by

**Dr. Andy Ogden**

The Northeast Chapter held its fall test in Bristol, Maine, on September 25 and 26, all dogs completing the Natural Ability Test. We all enjoyed the cool fall weather, which created ideal conditions for the dogs. In addition, the test site was in great shape despite a prolonged dry spell. Strict COVID-19 precautions were observed; the usual dinner and auction were preempted. Senior judge Rick Molt was assisted by judges Phil Bennett and Ted Silver. Laurie Connell and Andy Ogden served as apprentice judges and bird handlers to keep the number of people participating at a minimum. One dog was tested on Friday, followed by a half-day of training. On Saturday, the remaining three dogs were tested.

First up was Austin of Cherry River, a 17-month-old male bred by Michael Vance and owned and trained by Charles Trial. Austin is a large male with a classic CF head and considerable energy. Austin had a little trouble searching in the field. However, his search improved when he entered the woods. He did have difficulty pointing in the field. Austin could sense that we were trying to work him around a bird and failed to point it. After the bird flushed, Austin gave chase, and a shot was fired. He came back without being called but something had changed. The second bird was not pointed, but when flushed, Austin became somewhat anxious. It was decided not to push any further and cause unnecessary harm.

Next came the pheasant track. Whatever started to bother Austin at the pointing portion of the test continued to keep him rattled. He needed a lot of encouragement to get started and stick with it. Charles did a great job as handler, coaching his young dog along the way.

Lunch and a short rest resulted in an improvement for Austin as he proceeded to light it up at the water. A bold entry and strong swimming were noted during both retrieves as Austin seemed to find his element. After the water test, Austin was tireless in swimming after a live duck just for exposure. After losing the duck, it was chased back out into the pond. Austin tracked it through heavy brush and pointed the duck—a fine example of his potential, and a sharp contrast to the test results from the morning.

Saturday started as a cool, overcast day with a light breeze. After introductions and the Call to the Hunt, we got down to business and tested the three remaining NAT dogs. First up, was Augustus of Shaw Brook, bred by Tony Meyers and owned and trained by Richard Valent. Gus is a 17-month-old brown CF, energetic and friendly



Photo by Tina Molt

**Austin of Cherry River with owners Anita and Charles Trial being directed by Judge Phil Bennett**

with good furnishings. His search showed solid range, shortening when we entered the woods. On exiting the woods, Gus made a fine point on a planted chukar. Gus tracked the pheasant well and broke into the cover in search of his quarry. He had no problems with the water and ended with a total score of 28. This was excellent work by Gus and Richard.

Next was Adar of Shaw Brook, owned and trained by Phil Lukish. Gort, as he is called, and Phil traveled from Pennsylvania to test with us in Maine. Gus and Gort are littermates and do show a variation in coat type. Gort is eager, friendly, and has great game drive. He had an excellent search in both the field and in the woods. Despite the recent drought conditions, there was a woodcock in the woods, and Gort pointed it. Showing persistence, he made a nice track of the pheasant. Gort's only hiccup of the day was at the water, requiring some extra encouragement to enter the water. A total score of 27 was awarded for a nice job by this team.

Angus of Payette River and William Carlow were the

last team to test on Saturday. Angus, whose call name is Odie, was bred by Roger and Nancy Furman. Odie was a little tentative during the search, showing flashes of good search mixed with some periods of dependence. Odie didn't point but did find the chukars. He then worked the pheasant track with some hesitation, needing encouragement for about the last 15 yards. When we got to the water, we were in for a show. Odie loves water and loves jumping in with gusto. With the style points and the degree of difficulty figured in, those jumps were easily a 10, as scored by our Olympic gymnastics judge. Although Odie was somewhat tentative and sensitive, he will come into his own with more exposure. William and Odie have a great bond and obviously enjoy spending time together.

The final dog for this report from the Northeast Chapter was, in fact, the first to be tested, Fanny od Bouňovské studánky, an imported female bred by Mgr. Jaroslav Rataj and handled by Laurie Connell. Fanny was tested early to free up helpers for the primary test, scoring an impressive 28 points.



It was great to see our club members and their pups. We were able to complete the testing following all the COVID-19 guidelines. Thanks to everyone who came and helped make this happen. I am sure we all are looking forward to next year with the hope that we can return to a more normal event.

**Photos by Charles Trial**



**Augustus of Shaw Brook (Gus) with owner Rick Valent**



**Adar of Shaw Brook (Gort) with owner Phil Lukish**



**Angus of Payette River (Odie ) showing off his love for water!**

**Owner William Carlow**

## Heartland Fall Test 2020

by  
**Rem DeJong**

The 2020 Heartland Fall Test was an improvisational affair. Due to COVID-19, our regular test grounds near Baraboo, Wisconsin, were closed by the state, and no other venues capable of hosting a full-scale dog test were available. Chair Dave Read and the judges were left scrambling to find an alternate way to test. Simply waiting until Spring 2021 was not an appealing option. That would result in a backlog of dogs

to test and overwhelm our capacity. So, organizers decided to hold only a Natural Ability Test.

This would mean a less demanding setting; no duck tracking was required, so no marsh cover or open water was needed. The testing was split into two locations. A Heartland group trains once a month near Marshall, Michigan, on property owned by club member Dan Walsh. He made his land available, and we were able to test two dogs there. Breeder Tony Meyers, of Watertown, Wisconsin, arranged use of a local hunt club for a one-day test. (No easy feat right at the opener of the Wisconsin preserve hunting season.) We had seven NAT dogs lined up for that test.



Photo by Rem DeJong

**Shaw Brook Littermates NAT (Sept 12, 2020)**

**L to R: Ryan Meyers & Augie; James Melcher & Aye Frankie; Breeder Tony Meyers, Ted Vanderpan & Aczarina**

Testing in Michigan were Mark Neff with Blue Mavis of Two River's Crossing and Dave Finley with Avery of Shaw Brook. Mavis is Mark's first hunting dog, and this was his first experience testing. Between COVID and family responsibilities, Mark had little opportunity to hunt with Mavis, and that fact became evident during the test. Mavis did a good job searching despite her limited exposure. She managed a flash point but was surprised and frightened by the pheasant taking to the air. After that, she wasn't sure she wanted to get too close to those big birds. By the time her test ended, and the judges had a chance to do a little exposure work, all that changed. Mavis has a lot of potential, but she was unable to demonstrate her talents, given the lack of exposure. On the track of a live bird, Mavis showed that she detected the scent and did make some effort to track, but it was quite

limited. Swimming was her forte: Mavis charged into the pond and swam enthusiastically after the dummy. She demonstrated a great attitude toward work and was generally cooperative, netting a total score of 22 points. After the test concluded, the judges let her see a bird run and then let her track it. She got to hold a bird and thought that was wonderful! With exposure and training, Blue Mavis can be a fine hunter. We hope to see how she progresses by Intermediate Test time.

Avery of Shaw Brook is a precocious pup with a fair amount of bird exposure. The previous fall, she hunted sharptails in Montana and pheasants in South Dakota. She also attended several Michigan training days. Avery performed an enthusiastic search. Despite several efforts, she did not point the pen-raised birds. On the track of a live bird, the bird made two exceptionally long jumps



Photo by Rem DeJong

**Two River's Crossing B Litter NAT (Sept 12 2020)**

**L to R: Karla and Mark Cornick & Bram Stalker; Breeder Andy Yeast; Jon Coil & Bena; Kirk Dilly & Briggs**

before disappearing in dense cover. Avery was very persistent and made a good track. She's enthusiastic about water and made an impressive wake upon entering the pond. Due to no pointing, she earned a total score of 22, but she clearly has much potential as a hunter.

The Wisconsin portion of the test presented its own challenges. The day before the test, it would not have been surprising to see Noah's ark floating by. The forecast for test day was no better, with heavy rain predicted all day. Fortunately, the rain clouds mostly just glowered at us from beyond the trees and didn't let loose until the test was over. The shooting preserve was not set up as a test ground. Cover was extremely thick, so it was difficult to observe field work. Tracking conditions were challenging. We finally settled for a mowed lawn area near a farmhouse where birds could run into dense grass. Less than ideal, but the judges made the best of it. We tested in two groups. Jim Crouse served as mentor to Dave Finley apprenticing as senior judge of one group, with Monica Redmond as apprentice. They tested three Two River's Crossing dogs bred by Andy Yeast.

First up in this group was Kirk Dilly with Briggs of Two River's Crossing. Briggs has a large, chunky profile. He performed well in his search, pointing and water work. Unfortunately, he was really flummoxed by the tracking test. The poor setting undoubtedly contributed to this. After all, we were conducting the track on a mowed lawn, near a barn with turkeys in the pen. With all the distractions, Briggs shut down. However, he showed much promise, and we hope to see him excel at the intermediate level.

Littermate Bram Stalker came with a lot of wild bird exposure. A happy and enthusiastic dog, he made a solid search but would not point the pen-raised birds. He had some problems with the track, but again, conditions were poor. Although he didn't prize, he should perform well in the field. The last of the Two River's pups was a female, Bena, owned by Jon Coil. She's a traditional gray-with-liver-plates-coated dog. She did better than the rest of the group in tracking the live bird, earning 3 points. Otherwise, she earned solid 4s in all categories for a total score of 27 and a Prize II. (A 4 in tracking is required for a Prize I.)

Tom Breuckman ran Amber of Cherry River. A fine-



Photo by Rem DeJong

**Briggs of Two River's Crossing**  
**(Owner Kirk Dilly)**

structured female, Amber is a graceful runner in the field. She did an excellent job, with only a 3 in tracking preventing a perfect score. Again, the poor tracking location that we were forced to use probably contributed to the problem. She's a promising pup with a lot of potential.

Meanwhile, in Group II, Andy Yeast, in the senior judge role, was coached by Greg Hurtig. Dave Read served as apprentice. This group evaluated three Shaw Brook pups bred by Tony Meyers. Aye Frankie, owned by Jim Melcher, is an intense hunter with some unique behavior. When he got close to the bird, he lay down. He still garnered 4s in pointing, searching and tracking. He was more interested in birds and shooting than in interrupting his hunt for a swim, but when offered a bird instead of a dummy, Frankie didn't hesitate to swim. He



earned a total score of 26 and a Prize I. The group saved the best for last. Augie of Shaw Brook, handled by Ryan Meyers, and Aczarina of Shaw Brook, handled by Ted Vanderpan, each achieved a perfect score of 28 and a Prize I.

As we finished reading the scores, the rain started falling hard, but it could not dampen a successful test. The chapter especially appreciates the work of Tony Meyers to secure the testing location. We also had a fine dinner the evening before at the hunt club. Thanks to the volunteers who helped by securing birds and serving as bird handlers, and special thanks to Dave Read, who did an admirable job as test chair under trying conditions. All told, we managed to test nine natural ability dogs and have a successful fall testing season.



Photo by Rem DeJong

**Amber of Cherry Creek  
with owner Mark Cornick**



Photo by Rem DeJong

**Bram Stalker of Two River's Crossing  
with owner Mark Cornick**



## NATURAL ABILITY TEST, FALL 2020

WI = Wisconsin    MI = Michigan

WA = Washington    CO = Colorado

ID = Idaho

ME = Maine

	Age in Months	Searching	Pointing	Track of Live Bird	Affinity for Water	Nose and Use of Nose	Attitude Toward Work	Cooperation	TOTAL POINTS	PRIZE CLASSIFICATION	Conformation	Coat	Temperament
	A	S	P	TB	W	N	AW	C	TP	C	CO	CT	T
<b>GROUP 465 Aug., 2020 GDS</b>													
BRECKENRIDGE OF BALD EAGLE, M, CO	17	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	28	I			ok
BRICK OF BALD EAGLE, M, WA	17	4	4	1	4	2	3	3	21				ok
<b>GROUP 466 Aug., 2020 GDS</b>													
AMBER OF CHERRY RIVER, F, WI	17	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	27	II			ok
AUSTIN OF CHERRY RIVER, M, ME	17	1	3	1	4	2	2	2	15				*
<b>GROUP 468 Aug., 2020 GDS</b>													
ACZARINA OF SHAW BROOK, F, WI	16	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	28	I			ok
AUGIE OF SHAW BROOK, M, WI	16	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	28	I			ok
AUGUSTUS OF SHAW BROOK, M, ME	17	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	28	I			ok
ADAR OF SHAW BROOK, M, ME	17	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	27	I			ok
AYE FRANKIE OF SHAW BROOK, M, WI	16	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	26	I			ok
AVERY OF SHAW BROOK, F, MI	15	4	0	4	4	3	4	3	22				ok
ANDY OF SHAW BROOK, M, WA	16	3	1	1	4	2	3	3	17				ok
<b>GROUP 469. Aug. 2020 GDS</b>													
ASPEN OF PAYETTE RIVER, F, WA	15	4	0	3	1	3	3	2	16				ok
ANGUS OF PAYETTE RIVER, M, ME	16	2	0	2	4	1	1	1	11				*

Note: Readers will notice a change in one aspect of reporting in that no CONFORMATION or COAT score is given. We have found that many dogs are still in growth spurts at these young ages and the true length and height changes between the NAT and IHDT test. Coats also change at these young ages. Also, jaws grow in spurts, and a 12-month-old dog may have a jaw that is misaligned, but it is okay at two years of age.

## NATURAL ABILITY TEST, FALL 2020

(CONTINUED)

	A	S	P	TB	W	N	AW	C	TP	C	CO	CT	T
<b>GROUP 470. Page 16</b>													
CHICO OF VENATICUS MAJOR, M, WA	17	4	4	2	4	3	4	3	24	III			ok
<b>GROUP 471. Page 16</b>													
FANNY OD BOUNOVSKÉ, STUDANKY, F, ME	16	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	28	I			ok
<b>GROUP 472. Page 16</b>													
BENA OF TWO RIVER'S CROSSING, F, WI	16	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	27	II			ok
BONNIE OF TWO RIVER'S CROSSING, F, WA	16	4	0	4	4	4	4	3	23				ok
BLUE MAVIS OF TWO RIVER'S CROSSING, F, MI	16	4	1	2	4	4	4	3	22				ok
BRIGGS OF TWO RIVER'S CROSSING, M, WI	16	4	4	0	4	2	3	3	20				ok
BRAM STALKER OF TWO RIVER'S CROSSING, M, WI	16	4	0	2	4	3	3	3	19				ok
BRIE OF TWO RIVER'S CROSSING, F, WA	16	1	0	1	4	1	2	2	11				*

*Editor's Note: The Natural Ability tests conducted in WA are discussed in the Oct. GDS Issue*

### DOGS EVALUATED IN FALL, 2020

**BRECKENRIDGE OF BALD EAGLE**, F, 17 mos. Whelped 4/6/2019. No measurements for length or height. Coat— medium harsh, medium dense. Temperament—friendly, eager. Owned by Sid Sifkin, 14035 Park Cove Dr., Broomfield, CO 80023. Bred by Hiram Adelman. Pedigree 465, Aug., 2020 GDS.

**BRICK OF BALD EAGLE**, M, 16 mos. Whelped 4/6/2019. No measurements for length or height. No coat measurements. Temperament—bold, intense, overeager, could not shift gears for track. Owned by Nicholas Long, 30010 S. 959 PR SE, Kennewick, WA 99338. Bred by Hiram Adelman. Pedigree 465, Aug., 2020 GDS.

**AMBER OF CHERRY RIVER**, F, 17 mos. Whelped 4/13/2019. No measurements for length or height. Coat— flat lying, somewhat open on chest, med. harsh, med. dense, feminine, fine boned. Temperament—easy to examine, moves well in the field. Owned by Tom Breuckman, 1246 141st Lane NW, Andover, MN 55304. Bred by Mike/Kanako Vance. Pedigree 466, Aug., 2020 GDS.

**DOGS EVALUATED IN FALL, 2020 (CONTINUED)**

**AUSTIN OF CHERRY RIVER**, M, 17 mos. Whelped 4/13/2019. No measurements for length or height. Coat — med. harsh, med. dense, standard furnishings. Temperament—friendly, tentative, was put off by flush. Owned by Charles Trial, 198 Pelletier Ln., Tiverton, RI 02878. Bred by Mike/Kanako Vance. Pedigree 466, Aug., 2020 GDS.

**ACZARINA OF SHAW BROOK**, F, 16 mos. Whelped 5/2/2019. No measurements for length or height. No coat descriptions. Temperament — happy, eager for game. Owned by Ted Vanderpan, 1120 50th St. NE, Buffalo, MN 55313. Bred by Tony Meyers. Pedigree 468, Aug., 2020 GDS

**AUGIE OF SHAW BROOK**, M, 16 mos. Whelped 5/2/2019. No measurements for length or height. No coat descriptions. Temperament — eager, friendly, good game desire. Owned by Ryan Meyers, 1220 Fairfax St., Oshkosh, WI 54904. Bred by Tony Meyers. Pedigree 468, Aug., 2020 GDS

**AUGUSTUS OF SHAW BROOK**, M, 16 mos. Whelped 5/2/2019. No measurements for length or height. Coat — med. harsh, med. dense, standard furnishings, good belly coverage, a little open on chest. Temperament — friendly, cautious about being handled, good game drive. Owned by Richard Valent, 2 Hemlock Dr., Syosset, NY 11791. Bred by Tony Meyers. Pedigree 468, Aug., 2020 GDS

**ADAR OF SHAW BROOK**, M, 16 mos. Whelped 5/2/2019. No measurements for length or height. Coat — med. harsh, med. dense, short, open on chest and head. Temperament — friendly, eager for game, bold. Owned by Phil Lukish, 9312 Playhouse Rd., Petersburg, PA 16669. Bred by Tony Meyers. Pedigree 468, Aug., 2020 GDS

**AYE FRANKIE OF SHAW BROOK**, M, 16 mos. Whelped 5/2/2019. No measurements for length or height. No coat descriptions. Temperament — intense, eager for game. Owned by James Melcher, Watertown, WI 53098. Bred by Tony Meyers. Pedigree 468, Aug., 2020 GDS

**AVERY OF SHAW BROOK**, F, 15 mos. Whelped 5/2/2019. Slight overbite. No measurements for length or height. Coat — med. harsh, some openness, slight curl, ok belly coverage. Temperament — good game drive, friendly, easy to handle. Owned by Dave Finley, 11066 Beth Street, Plymouth, IN 46563. Bred by Tony Meyers. Pedigree 468, Aug., 2020 GDS

**ANDY OF SHAW BROOK**, M, 16 mos. Whelped 5/2/2019. No measurements for length or height. No coat descriptions. Temperament — slightly dependent, tentative, lacks experience. Owned by Dennis Carlson, 3801 Barrett, Hood River, OR 97031. Bred by Tony Meyers. Pedigree 468, Aug., 2020 GDS

**ASPEN OF PAYETTE RIVER**, F, 15 mos. Whelped 5/29/2019. No measurements for length or height. No coat descriptions. Temperament — eager, friendly, inexperienced but good game drive. Owned by Matt Stump and Juli Morse, 13900 SW 102nd Ave., Tigard, OR 97223. Bred by Roger/Nancy Fuhrman. Pedigree 469, Aug., 2020 GDS

**ANGUS OF PAYETTE RIVER**, M, 16 mos. Whelped 5/29/2019. low tail set. No measurements for length or height. Coat — med. harsh, lacks density, open on chest and belly. Temperament—difficult to examine, somewhat tentative in field, needs game exposure and drive, gun sensitive. Owned by William Carlow, 25 Circlewood Dr., Coventry, RI 02816. Bred by Roger/Nancy Fuhrman. Pedigree 469, Aug., 2020 GDS.



**DOGS EVALUATED IN FALL, 2020 (CONTINUED)**

**CHICO VENATICUS MAJOR.** M, 17 mos. Whelped 3/1/2019. No measurements for length or height. No coat descriptions. Temperament—calm, eager for game contact, cooperative. Owned by Pete and Susie Groeschel, 13233 NE 36th St., Bellevue, WA 98005. Bred by Lotte Van Dijk. Pedigree 470, Page 16.

**FANNY OD BOUŇOVSKÉ STUDÁNKY,** F, 16 mos. Whelped 4/20/2019. No measurements for length or height. Coat — med. harsh, med. dense, not flat lying, standard furnishings. Temperament—eager, friendly, easy to examine, good game drive. Owned by Laurie Connell, 85 Rabbit Hill Rd., Winterport, ME 04496. Bred by Mgr. Jaroslav Rataj. Pedigree 471, Page 16.

**BENA OF TWO RIVER'S CROSSING,** F, 16 mos. Whelped 5/23/2019. No measurements for length or height. No coat descriptions. Temperament—no defects observed. Owned by Jon Coil, 49625 Waldo Rd NE Kelliher, MN 56650. Bred by Andy Yeast. Pedigree 472, Page 16.

**BONNIE OF TWO RIVER'S CROSSING,** F, 15 mos. Whelped 5/23/2019. No measurements for length or height. No coat descriptions. Temperament—eager, friendly, good prey drive. Owned by Crystal and Brendan Woodward, 3405 Bell Ave., Everett, WA 98201. Bred by Andy Yeast. Pedigree 472, Page 16.

**BLUE MAVIS OF TWO RIVER'S CROSSING,** F, 16 mos. Whelped 5/23/2019. No measurements for length or height. Coat — med. harsh, med. dense, slight curl, good belly coverage. Temperament—a little soft, immature, needs more exposure to game. Owned by Mark and Kristen Neff. Bred by Andy Yeast. Pedigree 472, Page 16.

**BRIGGS OF TWO RIVER'S CROSSING,** M, 16 mos. Whelped 5/23/2019. No measurements for length or height. Coat — dense, med. harsh, full furnishings. Temperament — shut down on track, easy to examine, very eager in search. Owned by Kirk Dilly, 16443 170th St., Osakis, MN 56360. Bred by Andy Yeast. Pedigree 472, Page 16.

**BRAM STALKER OF TWO RIVER'S CROSSING,** M, 16 mos. Whelped 5/23/2019. No measurements for length or height. Coat — med. dense, med. harsh, med furnishings. Temperament—happy, eager. Owned by Mark Cornick, 1112 Harrison Ave., Burlington, IA 52601 Bred by Andy Yeast. Pedigree 472, Page 16.

**BRIEF OF TWO RIVER'S CROSSING,** F, 15 mos. Whelped 5/23/2019. No measurements for length or height. No coat measurements. Temperament—anxious in field, easily spooked, bold in water, \* gun sensitive. Owned by Dennis Bays, 1894 Governor Rd., Bellingham, WA 98229. Bred by Andy Yeast. Pedigree 472, Page 16.



**Czech Mate! - Austin of Cherry River (owner Charles Trial)**

<b>PEDGREE 470</b>		Mak z Hvízdalky
	Ugas z Těšínovských buků	Arka z Jílkova mlýna
	Dix z Pískové zahrady	Jasan z Hložku
	Nira od Jemiluk	Ira od Jeníků
		Chaar des Camilloux de la Vieille Forge I
	Esus vom Land der Somme	Belly du haut du Bois d'Ardenne
	Vitesse Venaticus Major	Nero od Těšínovských buků
	Asta z Krotějovských lesů	Silva ze Zvíkovské bašty
<b>PEDGREE 471</b>		Nero ze Všeštar
	Dar z Huťské osady	Dorka z Dubové hráze
	Eldorado z Těšínovských buků	Bon z Chladné stráně
	Jery z Vilímova	Ara z Jetenovických polí
		Ogar z Hložku
	Grif od Bošické skály	Ebina od Bošické skály
	Czárka od Bouňovské studánky	Cid od Tří stromů
	Aby z Honsova sadu	Corina ze Zátoně
<b>PEDGREE 472</b>		Avar ze Střezmé
	César z Pískové zahrady	Nira od Jemiluk
	Argo ze Stoprounských vinic	Emír z Ventova dvora (58332
	Exa z Lívy	Jannet z Křepických vrchů
		Aesir of Dakota Prairie
	Clancy of Salmon River	Braun of Marsh Stream
	Arika of Zumbro Valley	Friederich of Dutchman's Hollow
	Drew of Sandhill	Arthur's Pal of the Midnight Sun

## PennHip Report for 2020

by

**John Pitlo**

**A**t the 2006 WPGCA seminar and meeting in Idaho, the BOD voted to change the hip evaluation from OFA to PennHip. The reasons for this move were numerous and well covered by an article in the GDS by Dr. Corey Cherstrom (June 2006, GDS). For more information go to: [www.pennhip.org](http://www.pennhip.org). The reporting below will be much the same, except a DI (Distraction Index) value for each hip will be reported. A low DI indicates tight hips with a low probability of developing hip dysplasia; conversely, a higher DI value indicates loose hips and a higher probability of developing hip dysplasia. PennHip reports how the tested dog compares to other dogs of the same breed that have been evaluated. A dog with a 90% rating has excellent hips; a dog with a 10% rating has a higher probability of developing hip dysplasia. **More recently, the BOD has eliminated the PennHip requirement except for domestic dogs that are selected for breeding and all dogs that are imported.**

**BORKA OD CHLUMINSKE KAMIZOLKY (F), Sire: Rocki z Hlozku, Dam: Cindy z Pistinskyh Blat. Left Hip = 0.41; Right Hip = Cavitation—no score. Ranking 50%. Breed Average = 0.41. Owned by Stan Morse. Pedigree 453, Feb., 2019 GDS**

**CIDER OF NICHOLS CREEK (F), Sire: Corbet of High Desert, Dam: Hika of Dutchman's Hollow. Right Hip = 0.30; Left Hip = 0.15. Ranking 80%. Breed Avg. = .39. Owned by Todd Walrod. Pedigree 451, Feb., 2019 GDS**

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## Renew Your Membership

Memberships are January through December

<https://ceskyfousekna.org/join-renew/>

**When you renew, you will receive this newly designed decal that you can proudly display and continue to receive the GDS that will keep you connected with the club's news and activities.**



**Submit your favorite photos and maybe one will end up on our new color cover page!!**

Send photos to: [smavroidis@gmail.com](mailto:smavroidis@gmail.com)



**Having a moment**  
**Cestička Liberty of Two River's Crossing**  
(Photo by owner: Havely Geis Holt)



**Oh boy—First Christmas!**  
**Callie of Two River's Crossing**  
(Photo by owner: Paige Vande Giessen)



**Partners for life**  
**Adella of Cody Country with Ares**  
(Picture by owner: Grant Richie)



**The nose knows!**  
**Cleo Ruby of Two River's Crossing**  
(Picture by owner: Crystal Able)



# Training Seminar

**Mr. Robert Milner**

author of ***Absolutely Positively Gundog Training***

and owner of ***Duckhill Kennels*** will be presenting a virtual training seminar on Thursday, March 25

(hosted by the Training Committee and the Rocky Mountain Chapter)

**For information on how you can participate, please contact Angie McDunn  
(mcdunnk9@gmail.com)**



# The Backstory

## *Meet the New Editor*

by

**Spiro Mavroidis**

As many of you probably have guessed, with a name like Spiro, I am a native of Greece, born on the island of Samos, the birthplace of Pythagoras. My family immigrated to the states in the early '70s when I was just turning eight years old. My father was an avid hunter, primarily pursuing European hare and chukars on the island, although there were the periodic flights of Eurasian woodcock that would migrate south from nearby Turkey. At 53, I am not new to hunting. It has been part of my life since my early teens. But through the years, how much hunting I did fluctuated with life's circumstances. My early introduction was through our dad, following him on his outings when we chased rabbits and the occasional pheasant in northern Ohio. Even in Ohio, the '70s were the "good old days" of upland hunting.

As a family, we saw our share of dogs come and go in our lives. I don't know what kind of dogs my father had in Greece, but from his description, they were versatile dogs that pointed (probably not purebreds), used for both hares and birds. My dad, who is 84, has never been without a dog --until recently. He sadly had to put down his 14-year-old lab on New Year's Eve.

I started carrying a 16-gauge, single-barrel Stevens in my mid-teens before later upgrading to a Remington 870 pump. On weekends, my two older brothers and I would follow our dad, along with his beagle and English setter, coming home mostly with rabbits. As I grew older, I became interested in deer hunting, and then later in college, a friend introduced me to waterfowl. *Gun Dog* magazine has been coming to my mailbox almost uninterrupted since the early 90s. Even after I married and life circumstances kept me from owning a hunting dog, I would read every issue cover-to-cover, often dreaming what my next dog would be. This continued for almost 20 years: Undergraduate days, graduate school, early career and marriage took precedence. When we married, my wife convinced me that our first dog should be adopted from a



shelter. As a newlywed, I agreed. The dog, a yellow lab/golden retriever mix, had prey drive, intelligence and was easy to train, but was horribly timid and gun shy, probably a result of early life exposure to stressful conditions. Since a two-dog household wasn't an option at the time, I waited. And waited.

During this long stretch without a dog, I continued to hunt, but both the number of days in the field and success were limited. When our family situation allowed, I started thinking about getting a dog. By this time, I not only had *Gun Dog* magazine to learn about various hunting dog breeds, but I also had the internet, the biggest of all "rabbit holes!" Ironically, it wasn't through magazines or the internet that I learned about the Cesky Fousek. On one of my one-hour commutes to work, I was listening to an older podcast episode of *Bird Dogs Forever*, hosted by Dr. Chris Hageseth and featuring guests discussing different breeds. The two episodes that caught my attention focused on the wirehaired pointing griffon (WPG) and also presented perspectives on the schism that had occurred within the WPG group. After listening to the second episode, I turned to the internet to contact our club.

It turns out that our club president, Jim Crouse, lives a

short distance from us, and Monica and Jim invited us to visit and meet their dogs. After a short visit, my wife, son and I left impressed. However, we did feel that they were “checking us out” as much as we were them. It turns out that that is par for the course with our club, which always tries to find a good match for our dogs. After further research and a phone chat with Laurie Connell, we applied for a puppy. I must confess that as a biologist, what drew me into the club was its approach to breeding and how genetics is used as a tool to improve the breed. The other major point that sold us on the club was that dogs are placed in homes where they are part of the family.

Our preference was a female pup, but more males than females were available that year. After 20 years of waiting, I wasn’t going to let gender keep me from getting a hunting buddy. Soon we were put in touch with Joanne and Mark Canfield, who just had their fourth litter for the club. Waiting for our pup those last few weeks was torturous; there are only so many times you can watch *Puppy Culture* and read the training books, such as Joan Bailey’s *How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves* and Robert Milner’s *Absolutely Positively Gundog Training*. Being the “D” litter, one of those pups was Darwin. I am not sure if I chose Darwin, or, because of his name, he chose me. I registered him as Darwin Wallace of Valley House. As your editor, I’m going to treat you to a biology lesson. Many have heard of Charles Darwin and his contribution to our understanding of evolution, but few know of Alfred Wallace. During the same time period, Wallace independently came up with the same concept of evolution by natural selection. Adding Wallace to our dog’s registered name was my nod to that lesser-known scientist.

When you read this, Darwin will be one month shy of his third birthday and finished with his second full hunting season. He has chased pheasants in South Dakota when he was just seven months old, thanks to an invitation from generous club members; sniffed pheasants and quail in Kansas; hunted grouse and woodcock in Michigan; and pointed pheasants (mostly state-released birds) and the periodic woodcock in Ohio. I can safely say Darwin has taught me more about bird dogs than I have taught him about bird hunting. I have been around dogs my entire life, and Darwin, with endless drive and energy, has been the easiest dog to train. If he has any shortcomings, they are my fault.

Joining our club has allowed me to make new friends and again engage in two of my greatest life passions: bird hunting and the outdoors. Becoming the GDS editor is my way of giving back to the group of people who gave me my dream dog. It doesn’t matter if your Fousek is your first puppy or your fourth; find some way to engage with the club. It could be as simple as attending your chapter’s summer training days and helping; going to a club test and volunteering; or sending content suggestions to the GDS editor. Here’s one more request: Write an article about your Fousek. Ideas include things you like and things you don’t like; that special point or retrieve from last season; dreams for the next year; or, whatever else tickles your fancy. Don’t worry about writing skills; just get your thoughts on paper or screen. We have a great group of editors to get you across the finish line.

But whatever you do, learn from my experience. If you are a newlywed, and you can only have one house dog, make it count. Twenty years is a long time!



Photo by Spiro Mavroidis

## **Future Events**

### **Northwest Chapter**

February 27, 28 Training and exposure Feb 26.

Contact Dennis Carlson (carlson@gorge.net)

### **Rocky Mountain Chapter**

Wednesday, March 24 - Sunday, March 28, 2021.

Training day (3/24) Seminar day (3/25), and three days for testing (3/26 - 3/28)

Contact: Angie McDunn (mcdunnk9@gmail.com)

### **Heartland Chapter**

Tentative dates: April 23,24,25

Mazomanie Test Grounds, WI

Contact: Dave Read (readgriff@gmail.com)

### **Northeast Chapter**

Tentative dates: May 14 (Training Day), May 15 (test day)

Stetson, ME

Contact: Laurie Connell (oquassa5@gmail.com)

### **Southeast Chapter**

No event scheduled at this time.

Contact: Donn Fizer (205) 641-0471