

English Setters  
March 2021

## **The National Field Championship and National Amateur Field Championship**

Conformation has been returning to normal, in fits and starts, since so many events were canceled in 2020. Field events for our English Setters are already in full swing. This month we have reports from BJ Parsons and Kay Fouhey who were at the National Field Championship and National Amateur Field Championship in Medford, New Jersey, in November 2020. A shout out to Mary Coldiron for providing the placings.

### **From BJ Parsons:**

The National Field Championship and National Amateur Field Championship were held on the historic field trial grounds of the English Setter Club of America in Medford, New Jersey the second week of November 2020. The site of the very first AKC field trial many years ago brought dogs from all over the East to run in this premier English Setter field trial. As always, the weather can be a big factor. Our cold weather loving dogs ran in record heat for the Amateur Championship while a cold front brought in drenching rain and cooler weather for the Open Championship, leaving parts of the course under water. Dogs were not deterred by either situation though as the winning runs in both stakes were classic bird dog runs.

Dogs were turned loose in braces to run the 45-minute stakes. The two dogs had to prove they got along with their bracemate as they proceeded around the course, followed by handlers, judges, scouts, and the gallery, all on horseback. The scouts helped locate the dog if he was out of sight on point. The gallery got to watch all the fun as the handler dismounted to flush and fire a blank pistol over the flushed bird. The dog must remain still during this process and only move once released. The scout helped the handler by holding the horse during the bird work and then take the dog forward to be released to run and hunt once again.

While handling from horseback was the norm, some successful handlers chose to walk the stake to handle their dogs. Quail were liberated but existing coveys of quail live on the grounds and pheasants were released in the neighboring Wildlife Management Area so birds were plentiful. A wrangler provided horses for those that did not have horses of their own. A clubhouse provided shelter from the weather for awards and many people camped in anything from a car camper to living quarters horse trailers to all sorts of recreational vehicles. Others elected to stay in nearby motels.

Dogs need to qualify to enter either championship by earning a broke dog placement in a previous field trial or be a Master Hunter. Broke dog placements can be either in a Gundog stake or an All Age stake. Broke dogs don't move once on point. They hold this through the flushing of the birds on the shot of a blank pistol. This year was difficult since late spring field trials were canceled due to Covid-19. Young dogs coming out of the Derby stakes had limited time in the fall to qualify but several managed to earn

the required placement. Field Champions, Amateur Field Champions, a Dual Champion, and bench Champions all competed together for the love of hunting birds.

In addition to the long streamer rosettes, silver plates and ProPlan dog food accompanied all placements. The winners also won embroidered chairs along with the right to add NFC or NAFC in front of their dog's name.

**From Kay Fouhey:**

What a thrill to arrive at the English Setter Association of America grounds in Medford, NJ, on a warm Fall day. We were all welcomed by our host, Frank Luksa and the Committee. They all worked tirelessly to prepare for this major field event.

As I sat on the desk and looked across the fields, I couldn't help but think about the long history of this historic site which was founded in 1905. Oh, the many excellent setters who ran in competition here! Now it's my turn to run, a very humbling experience to say the least.

It was interesting to see the mix of setters in the competition. One might imagine a lot of field dogs, however, as I looked down the entries there were many bench dogs with champion titles and a wide range of additional titles beside MH/SH/JH and AFC/DC. These are very versatile dogs, moving from the breed ring right out into the field.

As I explored the grounds, I found the English Setter cemetery where so many of our dogs are at rest. A peaceful place for our loyal friends.

As the days moved on we had some riding their braces on horseback and others walking the course. The weather was very warm for November getting over 75 degrees some days so it was a quick dunk before most of the dogs ran!

The evenings ended with wonderful dinners, lots of stories, laughs (some at our own expense) and good fun. I enjoyed the sharing of information about field trials rules, lessons learned and the passing of this information to some of the new exhibitors. The judges really took an interest in the exhibitors and wanted them to be successful. The prizes and ribbons were beautiful, with wonderful sportsmanship and support from all the exhibitors.

**English Setter National Championship**

**November 11-12, 2020, English Setter Club of America**

**Medford, NJ**

**Placements:**

1. PINE STRAW'S SWEET TEA: OWNERS: MIKE REEVES, GWYNNE MCDEVITT, AMBER DUFF: HANDLER: JEANETTE TRACY BY: HIGHGROUND JAX JABBA PINE STRAW KATYDID

2. LADYWOOD'S MISS DAISY: OWNERS: ELIZABETH ARCHER

HANDLER: JEANETTE TRACY BY: LAND CRUISER SCOUT SUKORA'S COME HOME  
JESSIE

3. DC/AFC WINDSOR'S FIELD HARVESTER, JH: OWNERS: FRANK LUKSA JR. & HUNTER  
LUKSA HANDLER: FRANK LUKSA, JR. BY: GCH CH EDITIONS PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS  
GCH CH EDITIONS NAVIGATOR, MH

4. GRAND WOODLANDS DALLAS OWNERS: ROBERT ANGEN

HANDLER: JEANETTE TRACY BY: SHADOW OAK BO GET BACK LOLA

AWARD OF MERITS:

WINDSOR'S LIGHTNING OVER MUNROC: OWNERS: FRANK LUKSA, JR. & RHONDA  
CORNUM. HANDLER: FRANK LUKSA, JR. BY: AFC CH KEI-RIN'S FAMILY TRADITION,  
SH DC, AFC WINDSOR'S FIELD HARVESTER, JH

WINDSOR'S BLEU SKY: OWNERS ROBERT & KIM SEXTON, HANDLER: ROBERT SEXTON  
BY: AFC CH KEI-RIN'S FAMILY TRADITION, SH DC, AFC WINDSOR'S FIELD HARVESTER,  
JH

CH LINWOOD 50 SHADES OF JOY: OWNERS: BRUCE & AMY ARNOLD HANDLER:  
BRUCE ARNOLD BY: GCH LINWOOD RESOLUTE'S NEW BEGINNING CH LINWOOD  
FRINGE BENEFITS, MH

CH BJ'S FESTIVITY GRAND PRIX : OWNERS: BJ PARSONS & KRISTEM APODACA  
HANDLER: BJ PARSONS, DVM BY: CH FESTIVITY BJ'S FROZEN IN TIME, JHA GCH. BJ  
SILVERLINE LIFE'S A DANCE

### **2020 English Setter Amateur National Placements:**

1. FC GOOD REASON HARVEY EMMETT FARKLEBERRY: ELFVIN, KERRI BY:  
NAFC/FC/AFC CHKARHILL RIMROCK RIDGE GOOD REASON RASPBERRY

2. DC/AFC WINDSOR'S FIELD HARVESTER, JH: LUKSA, FRANK & MARYELLA: BY: GCH  
CH EDITIONS PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS GCH CH EDITIONS NAVIGATOR, MH

3. DIAMOND HILL MAD MAX: POLLACK, LISA & PAUL BY: SHADOW OAK DOC JESSIE'S  
BONANZA

4. WINDSOR'S LIGHTNING OVER MUNROC: LUKSA, FRANK & MARYELLA & CORNUM,  
RHONDA BY: AFC CH KEI-RIN'S FAMILY TRADITION, SH & DC/AFC WINDSOR'S FIELD  
HARVESTER, JH

Congratulations to all! Thanks to BJ, Kay, and Mary for their help with this column.

Also, save the date! The 2021 English Setter National Field Trial will be held Tuesday through Friday, November 9-12, 2021 in Ionia, Michigan at the beautiful Ionia Field Trial grounds.

The Michigamme English Setter Club's field trial will be Friday through Sunday, November 5-7, 2021 at the Highland Field Trial grounds. Setter only stakes will be offered.

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