



NEWSLETTER

OUR GOAL: To Promote, Preserve, and Experience One of the Greatest Southern Traditions Known... Quail Hunting.

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Where to Bury a Dog

Submitted by Ed Cain—AQH member

A subscriber of the Ontario (Oregon) Argus has written to the editor of that fine weekly, propounding a certain question, which, so far as we know, remains unanswered: "Where shall I bury my dog?" It is asked in advance of death. The Oregonian trusts the Argus will not be offended if this newspaper undertakes an answer, for surely such a question merits a reply. It distresses (the writer) to think of his favorite as dishonored in death, mere carrion in the winter rains. Within that sloping, canine skull, he must reflect when the dog is dead, were thoughts that dignified the dog and honored the master. The hand of the master and of the friend stroked often in affection this rough, pathetic husk that was a dog.

We would say to the Ontario man that there are various places in which a dog may be buried. We are thinking now of a setter, whose coat was flame in the sunshine, and who, so far as we are aware, never entertained a mean or an unworthy thought. This setter is buried beneath a cherry tree, under four feet of garden loam, and at its proper season the cherry strews petals on the green lawn of his grave. Beneath a cherry tree, or an apple, or any flowering shrub of the garden, is an excellent place to bury a good dog. Beneath such trees, such shrubs, he slept in the drowsy summer, or gnawed at a flavorful bone, or lifted head to challenge some strange intruder. These are good places, in life or in death. Yet it is a small matter, and it touches



sentiment more than anything else. For if the dog be well remembered, if sometimes he leaps through your dreams actual as in life, eyes kindling, questing, asking, laughing, begging, it matters not at all where that dog sleeps at long and at last. On a hill where the wind is unrebuked, and the trees are roaring, or beside a stream he knew in puppyhood, or somewhere in the flatness of a pasture land, where most exhilarating cattle graze. It is all one to the dog, and all one to you, and nothing is gained, and nothing lost if memory lives. But there is one best place to bury a dog. One place that is best of all.

If you bury him in this spot, the secret of which you must already have, he will come to you when you call come to you over the grim, dim frontiers of death, and down the well-remembered path, and to your side again. And though you call a dozen living dogs to heel they should not growl at him, nor resent his coming, for he is yours and he belongs there. People may scoff at you, who see no slightest blade of grass bent by his footfall, who hear no whimper pitched too fine for mere audition, people who may never really have had a dog.

Smile at them then, for you shall know something that is hidden from them, and which is well worth knowing. The one best place to bury a good dog is in the heart of his master.

Excerpted from Old Dogs Remembered (Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc., 1993), edited by Bud Johns. This piece by Ben Hur Lampman originally appeared in The Oregonian, copyright © 1925, 1953 by Oregonian publishing Company.

Fall Field Trial

The Alabama Quail Hunters Fall field trial will be held on November 21st. We're pleased to announce the return to Gates Shaw's property. Please be sure to thank Gates for hosting the field trial and his willingness to share his property! If you would like to register your dog please contact Bob Carr (205-424-1381) or Frank Harris (after business hours 205-595-0203). Please register by Thursday night (11/19) at the latest. Registration fees:

- Puppy Class up to 12 months old - \$35.00
- Derby Class any dog up to 36 months old, \$40.00
- Gun Dog Class is open to any dog, \$45.00
- Senior Dog Class only open to dogs over 8 years old, \$45.00

Directions to Gates Shaw's Farm

- Take I-65 and Exit at the Montevallo & Calera Exit onto AL Hwy 25.
- Go South on AL Hwy 25 through Calera, Montevallo & Wilton about 13 miles total to Bibb Co. Hwy 65. (about 7 miles from Wilton)
- Turn Right onto Bibb Co. Hwy 65 and go about 1 mile to Carlton Pass.
- Turn Right onto Carlton Pass and go to the dead end.
- The gate at the dead end is the entrance into Gates Shaw's Farm.
- Go through the gate to the designated parking area.

Welcome To Our Newest Members

Jason Nelson
from Birmingham

Dan Shirley
from Birmingham

Keith Taylor
from Hueytown

Thomas Wiggins
from Decatur

Cullman Lease Update

by Bob Carr

This summer's plot planting effort got a late start due to rainy weather and equipment problems. 8 new fields and 2 old fields were planted with a mixture of milo, Kobe lespedeza, wheat, brown top millet and quail mix. With all the rain, they grew well as did the black berry, sage, ragweed, beggar lice and partridge peas. There is still plenty of fescue, Byhalia and Bermuda grass on the property. Predators including feral cats, coyotes, raccoons, armadillos, snakes and others continue to be a problem on the property. My "have-a-heart" trap was too small to catch a coyote and the fire ants would eat the hot dog bait before the raccoons could find it. I shot at a coyote one Saturday but his body has yet to be found. Many thanks go to all who allowed us to use their equipment and to those who helped with their time using the equipment.

A work day will be called soon to place new signs and mow additional hunting lanes.

Treasurer's Desk

The weather temperatures are cooling and the leaves are changing colors. November 14 will be here before you know it. Look at your AQH Newsletter mailing label. If "12-09" does not follow your name, my records show that you have not yet paid your 2009 dues. Your 2010 dues are payable on January 1st. Please mail me your check made out to AL Quail Hunters, 1901 Morgan Road SE, Bessemer, AL 35022. Your annual \$15.00 dues are income tax deductible. If I have made an error (and I DO make errors), email me at coalcarr@bham.rr.com or call me during office hours at (205) 424-1381.

Thank you, Bob Carr, AQH Treasurer

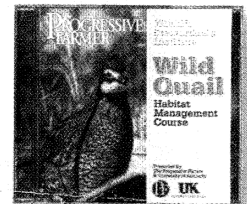
Quail CD is the start of something good

We're proud to announce our brand new Wildlife Stewardship Institute, a new series of electronic courses available from *The Progressive Farmer*.

We've worked with Dr. Tom Barnes, a wildlife biologist from the University of Kentucky, to put together a brand new CD-ROM on Wild Quail Habitat Management, which is the first course in our Wildlife Stewardship Institute.

The 30-minute Quail CD, which has been endorsed by Quail Unlimited, tells you everything you need to know about attracting quail to your property and keeping them there.

If you are interested in the Wild Quail CD, just send a check or money order for **\$19.95 plus \$4.95** for freight to *The Progressive Farmer*, Quail CD, 2204 Lakeshore Dr., Suite 415, Birmingham, AL 35209. You can also order online at www.progressivefarmer.com/store. Let's work together to bring back that wonderful bobwhite call to rural America.



HEY FOLKS

Have you ever bought 2 dozen birds on Friday afternoon, planted half of them Saturday morning and watch most of them pop up and fly away to the woods? Your anticipation of a great morning hunt and dog work has quickly turned into a math drill of how many flew away. After a brainstorm, you decide to shake/spin the next half so they don't escape before you return with your dog. Upon returning to the field you find this group is too dizzy to fly, as you over did it. There is a better way! Organizing a hunting club with the specific intent of hunting quail, providing quail habitat and releasing preseason quail might be your answer. The model used by Price McGiffert on his Tuscaloosa County property is an excellent example of what can be done. I don't know of anyone doing a better job with quail habitat and preseason release quail. He uses food plots, supplemental feeding and escape cover habitat like plum thickets to protect and hold his quail.

Most hunters do not have the required capital to purchase a large tract of land and to manage it for quail. Those with the capital to own a large a parcel of land may not have the time to manage it for quail. Face it guys, we have selected a sport that is capital and time intensive. I cannot foresee the capital investment required to purchase quail hunting property decreasing in the future. A club may allow you to experience a great hunting opportunity without bearing the entire cost and work alone. Here is my take on how to make quail hunting doable for those of you who want it badly.

Organize a group of hunters with the desire to hunt quail. Site selection is very critical. You need to find an area to lease of 250 acres or greater in size. Rural property is best. Shooting is noisy and dogs can get out of control. Select a site that is away from commercial and residential development and busy highways. There is no reason to lease and develop a hunting property site only to loose it to developers. Marshy, wetlands are also

not ideal for quail. Ideally, the adjacent lands will be just as suited for quail hunting as your site. The proper ratio of acres per hunter and hunts per season is sticky. The number of guests allowed can greatly distort what is a good ratio. Club rules and required annual dues should be developed early so incoming members know what to expect.

Assuming that you are entering into a lease to improve this property, you will need a long-term lease. The longer the lease term, the better your club will be. In addition to permission to hunt and to train dogs, you will need the ability to cultivate the soil, prescribed burn, trap predators and control access. Clubs focusing on quail habitat are very compatible with dove hunting. You would also benefit from including a couple of deer hunters to enjoy the deer your food plots will attract.

Equipment is a key for habitat development. The full range of equipment may include a farm tractor, dozer, turn plow, disc, bush hog cutter, sprayer, seeder, grass land drill, equipment transport trailer, and fire equipment. The question is, does the club purchase this equipment, lease it, borrow it or contract the use and operation? To own, securely store, and maintain all this equipment is a sizeable investment. The time to operate the equipment is also a large investment. Hunters will gain the use of a property for only a fraction of the time investment requirement by joining a club. Hunting and conservation clubs are not new ideas. They have been around for long periods of time. Some clubs disperse after one hunting season and some last for generations.

I consider our Cullman lease a work in progress. Unfortunately, I do not anticipate that we will be able to accommodate all of your requests for membership, now or in the future. I encourage you to begin a new lease. I am willing to share my ideas, experiences and the organization we used in our Cullman lease to get another one going.

Frank, President

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT

www.alabamaquailhunters.org

www.alabamaquailtrail.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Office Phone (____) _____

Cell Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____

New Member

Renewal

2009 DUES – \$15.00

Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"

For more information call N. H. Holt @ 205-936-6293 or contact:



1901 Morgan Road S.E. Bessemer, Alabama 35022



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