



NEWSLETTER

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

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Spring Field Trial

Alabama Quail Hunters would like to thank the Frost family for once again hosting our trial at Frost Farms.

Congratulations to the winners!

Puppy

1st	Gloria	Leon Flynn
2nd	Lou	Bob Carr

Derby

1st	Lucy	Dale Hubbard
2nd	Trigger	Jason Nelson
3rd	Salley	Russell Stone

Gun

1st	Maize	Bob Carr
2nd	Lucy	Dale Hubbard
3rd	Joe Knox	Roland Jones

Senior

1st	Kate	Maggie Barlow
2nd	Curley	Tom Hopwood



2011 Spring Field Trial Winners

National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI)

Bobwhite quail, and the many other species in decline that share the same space, have a new ally on the web with the launch of www.bringbackbobwhites.org by the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI).

A coalition of 25 state fish and wildlife agencies and other public and private organizations, NBCI adds a range-wide, policy level approach to the traditional project level work by the individual states. The website's launch comes a month before NBCI unveils a massive revision of the original 2002 initiative at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The revision includes a new digital "Conservation Planning Tool" for use by quail biologists. Over 600 biologists cooperated to build the new tool.

"NBCI is a strategy by the states, for the states to assist their efforts to restore populations of wild bobwhites across their range," said Don McKenzie, NBCI director. "The new website is one step in bringing these efforts into focus, building a wider community that's supportive of saving bobwhites and the many other imperiled species, and giving them avenues to act on that support. Our goal is for the site to become "bobwhite central," a go-to location for anyone wanting to know more about the bobwhite's situation and what's happening to America's landscape that's causing it.

If you've seen this logo, then you've probably seen the most recognized hat worn by serious quail hunters.



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HEY FOLKS

Hey Folks, "We should not accept it!"

Earlier this year my cousin Bill, his friend, George and I were hunting pen raised quail in Wilcox County. We released the birds and in a matter of minutes, we came around pursuing or chasing them with our bird dogs. The weather was great. It was a cold winter day with a little southwest breeze. A good day for walking behind 2 English Setter bird dogs. Guess what happened? The planted birds immediately walked off their released spot. Seems the birds did not much care to fly that day. They ran and finally pitched up into flight and about the time we raised our guns, they dropped down to the ground. Again and again this scenario repeated itself. Pen raised birds just will not appease a wild bird hunters' appetite. We were hunting the same farm where, one generation earlier, we hunted wild quail. I found two wild coveys here until the 1990's.

Wild quail in Albany, Texas do not know this behavior. Sure, they run but you will not see them pacing back and forth, providing you with a head count. When Texas birds burst into flight, they hit top speed and take a course close to the ground between your line of sight and a mesquite tree. They continue their flight until they reach cover or drop off a hillside out of sight. We need to quit lying about how good pen raised birds fly and just admit that we can't shoot well. Yes, I am guilty too. I will release more pen raised quail before the season ends. We should not accept that hunting pen raised birds is the only way of quail hunting.

Fescue was first discovered in the 1940's in Kentucky. That is 70 years of being planted on farms and ranches. It will be a long time to eradicate it.

Pen raised quail look similar to wild birds, but genetically, they are different. The wild quail have a much broader genetic code that allows them a greater opportunity to survive. Our wild game biologist are correct to say, "There is no silver bullet." Quail require suitable habitat. All components must be available. Here are my ideas of what we can do. We can work toward habitat improvement on a specific piece of land. We can support research or we can financially support a habitat project. Wild quail do not light 30 feet up in a pine tree, this genetic trait can be erased. We can demand that pen raised quail breeders include wild quail genetics in their birds. We need to demand that pen raised quail growers feed whole grain so that released birds will recognize natural foods when released. This will also put oil on their feathers so they can survive a rain storm. Most of all, we must not accept the notion that the Alabama landscape will not produce wild quail anymore. Today, many acres of undeveloped land exist in Alabama. It has lost the habitat components wild quail need to flourish.

I challenge each of you to make a little extra effort to assist Mr. Bob White this year. Eradicate a field of fescue, disc, plant long leaf pines, control burn, or send a research contribution to Tall Timbers at Tall Timbers Research Station, 13093 Beadel Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32312. Most importantly, do not accept that hunting pen raised quail as our only choice. Pen raised quail will not appease a wild bird hunters' appetite!

Frank Harris
President

Treasurer's Desk

Your AQH 2011 annual dues are now payable, if you have not already paid them. Please check your AQH Newsletter mailing label. If "12-11" does not follow your name, my records show that you have not yet paid your 2011 dues payable to all AQH members on January 1st. Please mail me your check made out to AL Quail Hunters & mail to 1901 Morgan Road, Bessemer, AL 35022. Your annual \$15.00 dues are income tax deductible. If I have made an error, email me at coalcarr@bham.rr.com or call me during office hours at (205) 424-1381.

Bob Carr
AQH Treasurer

Welcome To Our Newest Members

Charles Higdon from Birmingham
Willie Morris from LaFayette
Russell Stone from Huntsville

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

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

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Email Address _____

New Member

Renewal

2011 DUES – \$15.00

Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"

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



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Alabama Quail Hunters

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