

From the Publisher's Desk
Welcome to the Aug/Sept issue of Bird Dog & Retriever News. Thank you, subscribers, organizations and advertisers for supporting us. We welcome a number of new advertisers thus allowing us to grow our publication. Please support them so we can continue to grow.

Well this is the last time we'll talk before season, hopefully you and your dogs are starting to get in shape. Hate to have accidents or be in pain during our favorite part of year.

So what's in this issue? First, I have a Thank You letter to my breeders and trainers. Recently someone created a Facebook group for Busch Vizslas so all the puppy owners can talk. God there are a lot of beautiful dogs out there and all because of ONE great breeder. I am reminded we all simply do not thank them enough, and it is time we simply say Thanks for all they give up and the great work they do.

In Focus On The Process Frank Neumayer takes us step for step through the shooting process. In our first Buy the Book John D. Taylor talks about the days gone by on the Prairie and speaks of the now much more rare Prairie Chickens. On our always popular New Product page check out the new waterfowl pants for women from GWG Clothing.

You can't expect to fill your game bag unless your dog retrieves and that only happens if they mark well. In this issue George Hickox takes us through the process of training Marking Drills.

As prep for the season we should all be thinking of what we pack for the hunt. On page 9 Texas A&M teaches us about Pet First Aid kits something we should all have in our vest.

In addition we have the calendar, recipes, state & industry news and much more. One last thing, do me a favor and e-mail me some of your pictures, I'd love to see them in BD&RN! And if you have a buddy that doesn't read BD&RN drop me a line and we'll send them out a free copy. Enjoy!

See you in the field and at the shows & events!

Dennis Guldán

Publisher Bird Dog & Retriever News
E-mail: Publisher@Bird-Dog-News.com Worlds largest read hunting/dog publication A great publication, that makes you smile!

A Much Belated THANK YOU letter to my Breeder and Trainers

By Dennis Guldán

This letter should have been written twenty years ago, but time gets by us and we forget to thank the people that in retrospective have made our lives, others and the world a much better place. Please send a copy of this to your breeder/trainer and even if we have not talked or done business, and this is what you do, let me say Thank You! Because you sure don't hear it as often as you should!

Let's look at some of the things we take for granted that is our breeder/trainers way of life.

In February, while you and I were going to Super Bowl parties and planning our vacations, our breeders were checking which dogs were going into heat as planned for the spring litters. Then they were making phone calls to make sure the stud and bitch were at the same place they were supposed to be at the time expected. And hoping there would be no litter from hell this year.

Thank You!

While we were worried about getting our driveways cleared to go to work, they were doing the same and plus making sure all dogs kennels runs were opened and they all have food and water and enough heat.

Oh as far as your vacation planning... their vacation will be where ever Nationals are next year. They won't be worried about Piña Colodas. They may get a beer after they make sure all the dogs they are running are in good shape for the night before they sleep in the truck.

Oh and let's not forget the trainers who are in the middle of 3-4 months on the road for off season training down south.

Thank You!

In March as we were thinking about getting on that bird to Mexico, they were at the Vet getting X-rays to see if the breeding took and how many pups they might be

having. And writing and calling the people that would and would NOT be getting a pup, if all went well!

And they were doing early training for the field Trials and Hunt Tests that would be happening next month.

Thank You!

April trial/testing season starts: we have a busy night or two getting the entries, clothes, vehicles

and all ready for one dog. Your breeder/trainer is doing the same times maybe five! See you didn't get that great dog without THEM putting your dogs sire & dam through the paces.

Thank You!

May comes around, we might pick another couple of events to attend. These are the same events Organized and RUN by your breeder/trainer. Someone has to do it. We get to show up after THEY do a ton of work. As an Event Secretary in the past, it's unreal how much unseen work goes into the events WE SHOW UP for! We may spent a hundred on an event. For some breeder/trainers you can easily add an extra zero for their costs.

And not only do they need to be at the test, they have litters being born. In twenty five plus years of writing my column Ellen and I have yet to see a suc-

cessful breeder/trainer run by one person, it's a family run business, and it needs to be.

Now with the pups on the ground, time to decide who gets what. Which pups may be Flagship of the kennel in ten years and hope they are right!

Thank you!

June: pups are maturing, tails are docked, shots and vet bills need to be taken care of and a bunch of owners, many of which want nightly updates, want to know WHEN!



Linda Busch, the show/puppy-mom half of Busch Vizsla's of Winnebago, IL

All this while dogs in the rest of their kennel need to be evaluated and trained. Oh and there are a few dog club officer duties and meetings to attend to. As we attend graduations and weddings think of your breeder/trainer busy doing what they do to advance their dogs and their breed.

Thank You!

July comes around, time for the pups to go to their new owners. It's a great day for all. Well, all is not totally true. A few dogs will be returned, god knows why, family break-ups, it wasn't a good fit or some just plain nasty people. And these are homes they are letting their babies go to. But that's all part of the job that as a breeder/trainer you need to deal with.

Thank You!

This is but six months of the life of a breeder/trainer that you may talk to once a year, if not once every few years. We haven't even spoke of losing great dogs, which happens to them every year. We haven't spoke of the politics of dealing with people, state and county rules and taxes, and other breeders wanting the breed to go in a different direction or putting the money before the dogs.

But those are things we just accept and forget about. Those are things that we should far more often to our breeder/trainer just say Thank YOU!



Shooting

Focus On The Process By Frank Neumayer

Question: I've been shooting Trap from the 27 yard line for over 20 years... but lately I've been struggling to get my handicap average back into the 90's? I'm quite interested in hearing your thoughts on how I can resolve the problem?

Answer: First of all, you're not alone! Many long-yardage shooters are asking this same question. Because this question has been baffling me as well, I decided to step back and apply an analytical approach to this issue. I'm already aware of a couple problems that I need to work on. First, I come out of the gun slightly when I'm not seeing the targets well. Secondly, I'm not maintaining intense focus on the target throughout the entire process of breaking it. Herein lies the key! To be consistent at breaking moving targets you must strictly follow a very exact "process". This process is really a basic physics equation involving an applied action at a moving object while incorporating the factors of time, speed, and distance, where the actions of the shooter will determine success or failure. The critical factor in this equation is to correctly follow every step in the sequence, without deviation. Long yardage shooters have a much smaller margin for error, so each and every step must be followed with strict discipline, sharp focus, and with smooth and accurate precision from start to finish.

This is the same process we use for shooting singles and doubles. The only difference is that we're up-closer, things are happening faster, and we enjoy a greater margin for error. Because of this, we can post some good scores with a little less precision and accuracy. However, in handicap events, and as we move further back on the web, all the target breaking tolerances decrease and it becomes critical that we apply added focus, precision, and accuracy if we hope to post the same high scores. Here's an example of what I'm talking about. Just like in the game of

pro-football when you see a perfectly executed pass-play, but at the very last second the wide-open receiver drops the ball and the play is over. Most often, the receiver simply took his eyes off the ball at a critical point in the process. I think we shooters are doing the same thing! Maybe it's a lack of concentration or fatigue, or maybe we're just lazy or complacent due to years of experience and over-confidence? Whatever the cause, a millisecond before we pull the trigger we're taking our eyes off the target, bailing-out of the process and allowing our efforts to end in failure.

None of the following information is new to an experienced shooter, but hopefully by breaking-down and revisiting the sequence of events and the phases and steps involved, we can develop a clearer understanding of exactly where we need to refocus our improvement efforts. This process can also be referred to as "Precision Tracking" approach to breaking targets. That's because with this approach the target is carefully tracked with discipline, precision, and accuracy throughout each phase and each step involved. Also, to be successful, every phase and step must also be followed in an exact sequence. Here's how it all breaks down:

Phase 1: In the beginning phase all of the focus is on the shooter and on how well you set-up and prepare yourself prior to taking the shot. Here are the key steps involved: 1)

Set-up properly for the hardest possible break you can expect from the particular post or station you're on. 2) Mount and lock-into the gun, while at the same time adjusting for the correct hold-point over the house. 3) Focus your eyes out into the breaking zone and don't come back to the bead. 4) Once ready and without delay, you call for the target.

Phase 2: In the middle phase is where all of your focus is centered on the target. Even though we have less than two seconds from the time we first see the target to when we break it, we need to be patient and allow the process to unfold before us. Here are the key steps to this phase: 5) Following the call, the target



will quickly appear out of the house, but be patient and allow it to clear your barrel. 6) Now, with your eyes locked on the leading edge, start tracking the targets movement with your gun using a smooth and precise swing. 7) As your barrel meets-up with the tail-end of the target, move through it and establish the correct amount of lead required.

Phase 3: This phase becomes the most critical in the sequence of events! Now, all the focus is on the relationship between your barrel and the moving target. Here are the critical steps: 8) Once you've established the correct lead, then and only then do you take the shot. 9) With your eyes wide open and still locked on the target, you'll see it break above your barrel. 10) As the target breaks apart, and while staying locked into the gun, continue your swing or follow-through as you chase the break. I can't emphasize

enough, that the critical point to all of this is that you never take your eyes off the target, not even for a millisecond, and that you never bail-out of the process (with your eyes or your gun) until the target chips start falling to the ground.

In order for this whole process to work correctly, every shooter must incorporate these basic and fundamental elements of shooting: 1) Throughout the shot, keep your head on the stock and stay locked in the gun. 2) Keep your eyes locked on the leading edge of the target at all times, and don't come back to check your bead. 3) Maintain a smooth controlled swing from start to

finish, with focused precision and accuracy throughout. 4) Always move through the target and apply the proper amount of lead required. 5) Don't bail-out of the process at the critical moment, actually see the target break. 6) Be sure to finish the process by following-through, or chasing the break. 7) Quickly forget about a lost target, and immediately prepare yourself for the next. 8) Be patient, don't over-think, and completely refocus for every shot every time. 9) Practice like you'll compete, using the same gun, loads, and disciplined approach. 10) Always stay in complete control of the process from start to finish. The moment you relinquish control, success will simply become a matter of statistics and probabilities.