

FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME

September 29, 2014

Almost 15 years ago, the English Springer Spaniel was invited to participate in the Field Trial Hall of Fame located at the Bird Dog Museum in Grand Junction, Tennessee. The purpose of this Field Trial Hall of Fame was, according to the Bird Dog Foundation, to maintain a venue in the Sporting Dog Complex to honor persons and dogs that have contributed significantly to the sport. Since 2000, we have inducted 44 dogs and 46 persons from our breed. The HOF selection committee, consisting of 6 members of the field trial community, chaired by the ESSFTA Field Vice President, meet in the summer and scrutinize the list of nominees that have been submitted to determine who the next candidates should be. The persons on this committee are listed on ESSFTA.org website and can serve up to two three-year terms. They are long time field trialers who know and value the history of our sport and the great people and dogs that have contributed in many aspects to improve and sustain our great game.

I want to be sure that the field trial community understands that the HOF Selection Committee does NOT nominate people or dogs, though they can. Their main function is to determine, based on the biographies that have been submitted, which candidates are the most deserving to be inducted in the following year. The committee knows there are probably many, many dogs and people that deserve this recognition, but they need to be nominated with a bio of the facts of their careers.

There is no form to fill out and the criteria is fairly broad. It is stated on the ESSFTA.org website, but I am copying it here for your reference. Once a person or dog is nominated, they remain on the list for review every year, unless they go three years with no votes from the Selection Committee. Of course they can be re-nominated at any time. The committee meets several times for a period of two to three months and nominations are generally made by October, for the following February induction, but nominations can be made at any time.

I am asking every field trialer to think about the great dogs and great people that have made this sport what it is today and nominate someone. You can send the bio (with as much facts and details as possible) to any one of the committee members.

PERSONS: For persons, a significant contribution to the field trial pastime has been the hallmark of that criterion. Contributions can be in several areas; those who have devoted considerable time and energy to the game, and who have given to the sport as a club official, judge or patron. In some instances a person will have campaigned major contenders, handled his or her own dogs in competition, or perhaps bred outstanding dogs. But in ALL cases, they should have served the game in several facets over a lengthy period of time. A person who has been active in the field trial game and reaches age 64 will usually have served the sport over this qualified period of time; therefore, this age requirement will be part of the criterion.

DOGS: The dogs must be deceased and their record as performers and/or producers should warrant their consideration for induction into the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

Bev Matthews
ESSFTA Field Vice President