



Bryan/College Station Retriever Club August 2000

Fall AKC Test

The Fall AKC Test is October 21st and 22nd at the Vajdak Ranch in Clay. We are still in need of volunteers to help at headquarters and to help prepare and serve lunch on both days. We are also needing to know which club members will be willing to help out as “bird boys” at the test. We need to get a head count so we can determine how many paid “bird boys” we will be needing for the test. If you can help out in any way contact the Hunt Test Chairman, Cary Beason, 775-6038 or beason@txcyber.com

CLUB NEWS

The Club purchased a new 16 foot fully enclosed trailer to store and carry the club's hunt test gear. Wayne Bumgarner is in-charge of getting the trailer set up for carrying the gear. If you could spare sometime to work on the trailer, call Wayne at 822-4690.

The Club would like to welcome Brandon Harper and Dennis Crain as new members.

Rob McDaniel is expecting a litter of yellow labs sometime in the near future!!! If you or someone you know is interested in a new yellow hunting lab call Rob at 775-8540.

Somerville DU Banquet is Friday, August 18th.

Lake Somerville's duck blind drawing is Wednesday, September 13 at American Legion Hall in Somerville. Tickets passed out at 6:30pm and drawing starts at 7:30pm.

Lake Limestone's duck blind drawing is on September 1st at 8:00am at the lake ranger's station by the dam.

Waterfowl Preparation Tips

Proper care of your bird specimen begins in the field. The taxidermy process begins the minute that special bird hits the water. A properly cared for bird will make the mounting process easier, take less time, and produce a higher quality mount.

REMEMBER: You can take a good bird and make a bad mount, but you can't take a bad bird and make a good mount!!!

- 1.) If you hunt with a retriever, try to personally retrieve the bird yourself if at all possible to prevent any ruffled or broken feathers.
- 2.) Do not carry birds by their necks, this could cause feather loss. Always carry trophies by the feet, missing feathers cannot be replaced!
- 3.) DON'T WRING THE BIRD'S NECK! There are a couple of ways to put down a crippled bird: 1.) Grasp tightly around the breast, from behind the wings, and firmly squeeze your thumb into the "armpits" for one to two minutes until it succumbs, or 2.) Lay the bird on its chest, and apply pressure to its back with your knee or hand for several minutes. Both of these methods will suffocate the bird quickly without damage, if done properly.
- 4.) After retrieval, wipe as much blood and dirt from the feathers as possible. While it is possible to remove most of the blood and dirt in the taxidermy studio, it is important to KEEP IT CLEAN.
- 5.) Place the bird in a cool, dry spot and out of the sunlight.
- 6.) Don't field dress the bird!
- 7.) Get the bird home as quickly as possible.
- 8.) Place cotton balls in the birds mouth, eyes, and nose. If the bird has a broken bone or is bleeding profusely, place cotton balls over the wounds to prevent excess bleeding. Fold the head either under the wing or over the back and place in a **plastic bag**. PLEASE DO NOT WRAP IN NEWSPAPER. Newspaper will draw moisture from the skin and will cause severe freezer burn damage to both the feet and delicate tissue of the head. Make sure the plastic bag is completely sealed.

- 9.) Place the bird in the freezer as quickly as possible. Don't keep the bird in a self-defrosting freezer for a long period of time. This will cause the bird to dehydrate and develop freezer burn.
- 10.) Get the bird to your taxidermist quickly, don't wait until the end of hunting season. The faster the taxidermist gets the bird, the better shape it will be in, and the quicker you will get it back.

Happy Hunting!!!

Rody Best has been doing waterfowl taxidermy for several years now and mounts waterfowl in his spare time. For further questions or information contact Waterfowl Creations at (979) 731-8279 or r-best@tamu.edu.

NEXT MEETING

Place: Post Oak Mall @ Brazos County Sheriff's Meeting Room
Next to Sears and across from Oshman's

When: August 15, 2000 @ 7:30pm