

2012 Fall Season

Our grouse dogs gave us another stellar field trial season. Their performances in the championships made us very proud of them. We also had another great month of August training in South Dakota.

Our season started in Wisconsin at the North Country Shooting Dog Championship run on Sharptailed Grouse. Dave Hawk's beautiful English setter female Quail Trap Sadie won runner-up with a driving, forward race and two classy finds on sharptails in 80 plus degree heat. She followed that up by winning the Minnesota Grouse Championship a week later with a wide, searching race and picturesque find on a pair of grouse.

I rushed back to Michigan in time to run in the Michigan Woodcock Championship. Moss Meadow Traveler, owned by Ken Moss of Mt. Pleasant, MI, won with a four find performance that one of the judges told me was the greatest performance he had ever witnessed. I will never forget his performance in this prestigious event.

Next on our calendar was the Michigan Cover Dog Championship. Mike Cooper's setter stylist Cooper Mountain Pepsi won it and Dave Hawk's classy setter male Quail Trap Max was runner-up. Pepsi ran a wide, fast race and had a "dug up" grouse find in some of the thickest cover on the field trial grounds. She added a nice woodcock find later in the hour. Max ran a forward, quartering race hunting the cover very intelligently and was rewarded with a nice woodcock find and later in the hour added a pretty find on the side of a hill on a pair of grouse.

All of the above dogs now have multiple championship titles.

Another highlight of the season for me was winning the 2011-2012 Cover Dog Handler of the Year award. This was a great honor for me to top all of the other great trainers and handlers we have on the cover dog circuit. Thanks to Purina for sponsoring this prestigious award.