



## 2009 INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION

*By Phil and Karen Hinchman  
as told to Anne Livingston*

## HR UH BRANDYWINE'S CHOCOLATE COVERED CHERRY UICH07

**Packing** up to go to the 2009 Boykin Spaniel Society (BSS) National Retriever Field Trial was bittersweet. We were leaving behind Mossy Oak's Cutty, sire of Max, Citori, Cherry and many of our other dogs, in the care of my brother-in-law. Cutty's health had begun to fail and we felt the trip would be too strenuous for him. It was hard to leave the old boy at home, but with his blood running through most of our dogs entered in the field trial we felt like he would be there with us.

While training our girls for the Nationals each year we always have our fingers crossed that the dogs will get to go when the time comes. Last year Brandywine's Chocolate Covered Cherry (Cherry) was in season and couldn't compete, but this year we had that behind us. After the BSS Upland in January we had just over nine weeks to polish up her retriever work. Cherry trained well, there were a couple of times when she seemed bored, but we would back off and give her a rest and she would come back strong.

The weather man forecast rain for Friday and Saturday in Clinton and he was right. We had trained through all kinds of weather and it was not an obstacle for us. I really enjoyed the challenging test the judges put together. It seemed to me to be a level above the standard Seasoned test, with the first series eliminating eleven of the twenty three dogs entered in the class.

With rain threatening, the first test on Friday began in a pond divided by a levee with one side full of water and the other side marsh. The judges were set up 40 yards down the levee and as we approached the line we were to take the dogs off lead for the last 15 yards. The memory bird fell 40 yards away and about 15 yards from the bank while the go bird was fully 70 yards straight ahead with an unseen fall. Cherry's water retrieves were solid, so we turned and faced the marsh side of the pond for the land bird. It was positioned to fall about 35 yards away and behind another levee. It gave dogs a problem if they over ran it or stopped short of crossing the levee. Once again Cherry picked up her mark and we moved to the blind. The blind seemed straightforward, but again it was as the cover near the bank and to the left sucked them off the line. With just two whistles Cherry picked up the blind and

we completed the first series. It was a busy morning for us as I ran two other dogs in the Intermediate class, an Open dog and four Novice dogs.

It was late on Friday afternoon when we returned to run the second Intermediate series. Once again, the judges had put a unique twist on common elements of a Seasoned test. From the large round hay bale that served as our holding blind we approached the line off-lead to a 40-yard land blind. No shot was fired for the blind. Picking up the gun, we then walked 10-15 yards downfield as the judges signaled to the bird boys for a modified walk-up to a 70 yard retrieve. Cherry again showed her stuff as she and her sister Citori were the only girls still in the running.

Friday night is always festive with the silent auction and banquet, but we had a new concern as we had scratched Brandywine's Mighty Duramax from competition due to an unknown injury. We were fortunate to find a local vet who advised us that his injury was not life threatening, but recommended we take him to our regular vet as soon as we got home.

By Saturday morning there were only eight dogs still in the running. We returned to the pond we had been working in on Friday, but approached it from the opposite side. The Intermediate class must include a land double, and the judges instructed us to shoot twice at the first bird to set up the blind. The first bird fell in lush cover at the edge of the pond then it was almost a 90 degree swing to the second bird which fell up a hill, across a gravel road. The water blind was challenging with no clear channel to the bird, lots of suction from the bank and heavy cover.

We drew numbers for our running order and Cherry was up third. She picked up both marks cleanly and we were on to the last bird. For me, the most challenging part of the blind was keeping an eye on my dog as she moved through the thick grasses on her way to the bird. After sending her from the waters edge, I backed up to the top of the bank to get a better view. Once again, Cherry took every cast and came back with her last bird.

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(I) be of temperament typical of the Boykin Spaniel breed; stable, friendly, trainable, and willing to work. Temperament is of utmost importance to the breed and must never be neglected;

(ii) be in good health, including freedom from communicable disease;

(iii) possess the following examination reports in order to verify status concerning possible hip dysplasia or hereditary eye disease:

Hips: appropriate report from Orthopedic Foundation for Animals; PennHip; or at least a written report from a board-certified veterinary radiologist (Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiologists).

Eyes: appropriate report from a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology (ACVO)

Consideration should be given also to other disorders that may have a genetic component, including, but not limited to epilepsy, hypothyroidism, skin disorders (allergies), and orthopedic disorders such as elbow dysplasia and patellar luxation.

## THANK YOU TO A LITTLE BROWN DOG NAMED LILY

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Thank you to all who brought and bought our auction items. I sure did appreciate you all helping out this year and getting items donated or donating items. A huge thank you to Toy Glennon from Nancy Tidwell on the beautiful Fire Fly baskets she won :) Thanks for the duck boxes, turkey calls, duck calls, decoys, jackets, blankets, baskets, purses, dishes, fancy season britches and anything and everything that showed up on those tables! Thank you all for making the auctions so successful!

Thank you last but not definitely not least, to Bill Crites, you work so hard for months on these events, hundreds

of hours you give, I hardly get to see you at the events you are so busy, but I know you enjoy your work and like you say," if we made someone happy today, it was all worth it." 🐾

Kisses to your browns!

— Dawn Crites

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It is very hard for people from the north to prepare for the BSS Nationals which are held at the end of March. Our water temperature is too cold to work our dogs in, but we are fortunate to have the time to travel south to train in warmer water. I would like to thank all the people who helped us prepare for this event: my friend and training partner, Lance Waggoner, for all his assistance, and to Butch Herb and the Mid-South Boykin Spaniel Retriever Club for hosting the Mock Trial that produced a great training weekend.

*Post Script: We wanted to let everyone know how Max is doing. He had surgery March 30th for a ruptured disc in his back. The vet says the prognosis is good and hopefully he will be able to start walking again within 3 weeks. There was a lot of pressure and matter around his spinal cord from the rupture of the disc. There was also some bruising of the spinal cord, but we are praying for a full recovery. The surgeon said he was lucky that it was not a quick rupture but a slow one that had probably been getting worse over a period of days. He is now at home and recuperating. Thanks so much for everyone's concern and support. 🐾*