

## NRSFTC 2015 Hall of Fame induction speech by Ed Liermann

The last time we were here in 2013 we inducted the founding members of the National Red Setter Field Trial Club into the Hall of Fame. An honor long overdue and also the proper way to begin the process of honoring contributors to the "Purest Challenge".

If those members were here today I would tell them you were right. You had a vision, and a goal that would resurrect the Irish Setter as a Field Trial and Hunting dog in America. It took decades for that vision to materialize. We stand here today as Proof that your vision has come to fruition. We salute you by honoring the people and dogs that have practiced the purest challenge and are deserving. You started a movement that continues to this day.

That movement could not have gotten started without the help of the American Field and Bill Brown. If Bill Brown were here today I would tell him--- sir, you alone had a decision to make and - after much thought and deliberation you allowed the National Red Setter Field Trial Club to move forward with its plans to outcross. History has validated your decision. You were right. Your name will be forever linked to the National Red Setter Field Trial Club and to restoring the Irish Setter to its rightful place in the bird dog world. You lit a torch and passed it on. That torch still burns bright today. The American Field support for the purest challenge is as strong as ever under the leadership of Bernie Mathys.

Soon after those founding members started the club their efforts caught the attention of a young Marine Lieutenant Col. by the name of Ed Schnettler. Ed was originally from St. Cloud Minnesota where he was a track star at St. Johns University holding several records for many years. He was a life long Marine and fighter pilot serving in WW2 and the Korean War receiving the "distinguished flying cross" that is awarded to members of the united states armed forces who distinguishes himself or herself in support of operations by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight.

He gave to his country but also gave at home. His daughter Joan related a story from her childhood. The local economy had not been doing well that year, and many folks were struggling. One of Ed's neighbors had been offered a job, but he could not get to work because they did not have a car. The next morning one of Ed's two family vehicles was parked in the neighbors drive. When Joan asked her father what happened to the family car he told her " It went to someone who needed it much more than we did. The papers were signed over to the neighbor that same week.

It shows what an extraordinary person Ed was and how committed he could be to any endeavor.

Ed worked over 40 years in the selective breeding of red setters. His goal was a horseback shooting dog that was birdie-- smart-- hightailed and able to pass those

traits on. The results were seen in all breed trials around the country. Many champions from the 60's and 70's show his breeding.

Ed held many positions in the club and helped draft the shooting dog standards for the championship and standards and procedures for the National Red Setter Futurity.

Ed was enlisted in the Marine Corp. when he was first introduced to Red Setters at Baldwinsville, New York. This was where he saw and was impressed with well known Red Setter of the day "Double Jay".

After his discharge from the Marine Corps. in 1964 Ed turned Pro. This when he met and worked dogs for Jim Flythe under the Barton Creek Banner. His own Kennel - initially Schnet's then later Saturday Night ---was eventually based in Clear Lake Minnesota. As a breeder the Col. left an indelible mark on the breed by producing Saturday Night Ed who was inducted into the Field Trial Hall of Fame in 1981. Anyone who saw the dog would agree that few dogs of any breed were as pretty on point as he was. Some of Saturday Night Ed's offspring would include Saturday Night Zeke, Dangerous Dan McGrew, Kolar's Cool Hand Luke and Shawn of Kaymar.

As a pro Ed had a tremendous impact on the breed. For 20 some years he introduced many people to Red Setters, nurtured them and helped them to be successful. Some say he was frugal-which he was. But this was part of a greater plan. By keeping training expenses down he felt that "regular folks" were able to have dogs on the circuit. To that goal he wore bib overalls, a farmers chore jacket and an old straw hat -- a far cry from those years of spit and shine uniforms and high and tight hair. He drove an old truck and trailer but the dogs were always spotlessly kept.

Some of the dogs he handled would include:

Ch. Clancy O'Ryan, bred and trained by Ed Schnettler and owned by Pat and Marge Ryan was one of the most loved dogs of the 1970's and still figures prominently in many modern pedigrees. Clancy won the Red Setter Championship in 1972. He was a force in all breed competition throughout the Midwest and was inducted into the Field Trial Hall of Fame in 1983.

Ch. Abra, owned by Stan Zdanczewicz, the second winningest dog in FDSB history was campaigned extensively by Ed early in his career. Also of note is that Abra later in his career won the Region 12 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship, the Red Setter National Championship, Red Setter National Shooting Dog Championship and the Red Setter National Amateur Shooting Championship. Abra was inducted into Red Setter Hall of Fame in 2001.

Miss Colleen of Kaymar, Boom Boom of Kaymar, Vickie of Kaymar and Hogan also were winning dogs for Ed.

Other dogs from Ed Schettler's Kennel would include Schet's Little Red, Schnet's Happy, Schnet's Sam, Schnet's Tara, Schnet's Blip, Schnet's Edna, Schnet's Dismal Phyllis, Schnet's Kate, Schnet's Darky, Schnet's Joe C and Schnet's Jackie. One of the last dogs bred by Ed in the 1980's capping a decades long career was Saturday Night Eddie J--- a pretty dog on point many people thought he resembled Saturday Night Ed.

Col. Ed Schnettler's impact on the breed was significant. He was a courageous, caring, knowledgeable, humble, competitive and honorable man. He passed away February 21, 2005 leaving quite a legacy. And today we welcome him into the Red Setter Hall of Fame.

Accepting the hall of fame scroll is Craig Opel who spent 20 some years and training, trialing and traveling with Ed.