

# Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club, Inc.

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## **New Member Guide**

### **Dear New Member,**

Welcome to the Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club, Inc.

The Club provides members with opportunities to expand their knowledge and skills in the training of pointing breed dogs. The Club is an American Kennel Club (AKC) affiliated performance club. The Club's By-laws follow the AKC model and are on the club's website ([www.sandhillspointingbreedsclub.org](http://www.sandhillspointingbreedsclub.org)).

Since 2004, the Club has leased 100 acres from the Three Rivers Land Trust (TRLT). Club member, Hank Wheeler, purchased the property and donated it to the Land Trust with the proviso that the Club maintain the property. The Club supports TRLT's mission to protect the land and water, natural open space, and farmland in the Sandhills region.

There are many features to the Club and many ways to use those features depending on your training objectives. Hopefully, your orientation will answer your questions. If you are unsure about anything, you are welcome to call me.

Safety is a paramount concern. We have to use live fire and quail to complete a pointing dog's training. Your orientation will point out how to use the grounds safely when there is shooting. If you are involved in a unsafe situation with another member, please avoid a confrontation and call me immediately.

A club like ours works only if members are respectful of each other.

Ed Jesson  
President  
803/553-5230

### **New Member Orientation**

If you have paid your dues and not been voted in, we allow you to provisionally use the grounds once you have had an orientation session from the Membership Chair or Ozzie Osborne (910.379.4539). Ozzie lives close to the club and can usually accommodate your schedule.

### **Security**

Combination locks, all with same combination, secure the front gate and the buildings. After you set the tumblers to the necessary four digits, push the hasp into the lock body and then pull on the hasp to open the lock. After you open a lock, reset the combination to four numbers, like 0000, that is not the unlocking sequence. It is unwise to leave open locks with the combination visible; you never know who will stop by the front gate looking for the combination so they can return later when no one is using the grounds. This also makes it easier for someone to relock when they leave the grounds.

There is nothing more irritating than opening an upside down combination lock on a cold morning; the numbers are upside down and hard to read. When locking, insert the open lock through the hasp on the door or the chain on the front gate making sure the lock hasp goes through the left side of the door hasp or rotate the lock to ensure you can read the numbers right side up.

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When opening the front gate, push it open until it stops at the short restraining post, then loop the gate chain over the post to prevent the gate swinging in the wind.

When locking the front gate, wrap one end of the chain around the gate post and the other end through the gate before locking. There is a temptation to take both ends around the backside of the gate post and one end through the gate. With this method, the chain is held by the staples which can be easily removed.

There are two locks on the front gate, one belonging to the SPBC and one belonging to Pee Dee Electric. The hasp of the SPBC lock goes through the hasp of the Pee Dee lock. This arrangement allows Pee Dee to enter the club grounds any time to inspect Pee Dee's electrical equipment in case of a problem.

If you enter the grounds and the gate is open and there are cars in the parking area, you may leave the gate open or you may close it to prevent your dog from going into the road. If there are parked cars and the gate is closed, you must close it after you enter.

If you are the last person to leave the grounds, sign out, and close and lock all buildings and the front gate.

## **Planning for Emergencies**

Bad things can happen in remote, rough places and the club qualifies as such a place. You should anticipate that a bad thing will happen to you at some time. Always carry your cell phone to the field. If you become disabled and are conscious, call 911. If you become disabled and are unconscious, your contingency plans will save you. When you go to the field, chose a check-in time with your significant other or friend. For example, if you plan to leave the club at 4:00 PM, call to say you are in the car on your way home. If you do not make that call, your spouse will call you. Failing to reach you, your spouse will call a club member who lives nearby and the search will begin.

Some members have found it useful to create an SPBC mobile phone contact with the lock combination in the notes section, the club street address (3280 Jackson Springs Road,, Jackson Springs NC), the club mailing address (PO Box 123, Jackson Springs NC 27281) and the local emergency member contacts.

Club members who live close to the club and available in an emergency:

- Ozzie Osborne – 910-379-4539
- Steve Welch - 670-269-0507
- Robert Creech – 910-992-8217

Local emergency vet information is posted next to the Sign-In box.

## **Sign-In and Sign-Out**

You must sign in and out whenever you enter and leave the property. The sign-in box is hung from the club house wall to the right of the front door. Write in your name, date, time of arrival, number of the field you will use (pick a field that is not being used), and yes or no if you intend to drive to your field or use pigeons or live fire. If you have a guest with you, you must write in the guest's name with "guest" beside it. Guests can visit the club three times before they should become a member or not visit anymore.

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Signing in and out is a safety issue. If something should happen that would compel us to look for you, a record of where you were training and what you were doing is helpful in knowing where to look. We will be also telephoning other members who have signed in and may have seen you.

For example, if you sign in to use Field #4, walk in and out from Field #4 using the most direct route (walk on the road behind the pigeon coop and over the railroad tie bridge). Do not walk out through Field #2. Members, who have signed out Field #2, could be shooting into the woods just as you emerge from the trees. They were not expecting anyone to walk out of woods into Field #2.

## **Training Fields**

The club maintains seven training fields, which are plainly visible on Google Earth. A Google Earth image, posted next to the Sign-In box, shows the property with each field numbered. Each field is also identified by a metal sign. There is a 150 yard safety (no live fire) zone between Fields #3 and #4, marked by signs. Do not plant birds for shooting in the safety zone.

Fields #1, 2, 3, and 4 are the most heavily used. When those fields are being used, Field #5 is a good option.

When you sign in and designate a field to use, do not sign out two or more fields. Some folks will sign out #2, 3, and 4 when they are only taking a walk through those fields and going home after the walk. Some will sign out #3 and 4, when they can effectively use one or the other. Remember that there is a 150 yard safety zone between #3 and 4. Some will sign in and forget to sign out when they leave. All of which makes it appear that all the fields are being used when they are not. Don't despair and don't leave. Members are always returning to the club house for more birds or another dog. Ask what they are up to and whether you can work in. Or, carefully walk to a field and ask. Every member will adjust to help you get your training done. If you need someone to shoot while you watch your dog in a setup or need a dog to brace with, just ask. If, for some reason, nothing is working and you feel like leaving, call me before you get in the truck.

There is a four wheeler trail from the southwest corner of #4 to the north side of #2. It is tempting to take this trail as a shortcut back to the clubhouse. Do not take this trail. You can get accidentally shot. If someone is training in #2 with live fire, you can suddenly come out of the woods with a shotgun pointed at you. When returning from #4, take the route you used to get to #4.

Our neighbor to the north is a serious deer and turkey hunter. Try to keep your dogs from going into the woods north of Fields #5, 6, and 7.

## **Driving to and Parking in Training Fields**

When you sign in, pick a training field and mark [Y/N] whether you will be parking (vehicle or ATV) near your field on the tractor roads or in a designated parking area,

Parking on the tractor road or in a designated parking area is important. We are trying to preserve tall grass cover until late training season every year. Vehicles compress the grass and soil. If you drive indiscriminately over the fields, there will not be any training cover left to plant birds.

If you will be driving to fields 4, 5, 6, or 7, you will have to go through fields 1 and 3. If fields 1 and 3 are signed out for live fire, alert the members that you would like to drive through when they are not shooting. As you approach the field with your vehicle, honk your horn, and wait for an acknowledgement

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that you can drive through. Similarly, when you return to the clubhouse through fields 3 and 1, wait for an acknowledgement before proceeding.

Best place to park:

- Field 3 - park at the sign {Field 3 Parking Area} or on the tractor road east of the SAFETY ZONE sign.
- Field 4 - park at the sign (Field 4 Parking Area) or on the tractor road west of the SAFETY ZONE.
- Field 5 - cross into the field and park on the tractor road where you feel safe from gunfire that may come from field 3.
- Fields 6 & 7 – are accessible only by four-wheel drive or ATV. You can park anywhere on the tractor road.

## **If you plant it, you can shoot it**

The club has a "If you plant it, you can shoot it." policy. Members cannot opportunistically hunt and kill birds they find on the property. The only birds that can be shot are the birds that members purchase and plant for their dogs.

We have quail coveys on the property. These birds were training birds that were shot at, but deliberately not killed. This scenario simulates a hunt test, when the gunners often miss birds and the dogs, mistakenly, go on shot, rather than stand. These quail stick around, despite the dog pressure, as long as they are not shot. Food is available and the cover is good. Training dogs on these free range birds is wonderful. Like their wild brethren, the birds are nervous; they flush easily if the dog moves even slightly. The explosive flush of many birds unnerves the dog, providing a continuing training opportunity, as long as they are not killed. Members can search for the resident coveys with their dog, but they cannot take any of these birds.

The only exception to the "If you plant it, you can shoot it." rule will be after a hunt test weekend, when there are too many birds in the test fields (#2, 3, and 4) to permit productive training without some culling. The club will allow hunting of left over test birds for two days after the test, limiting the take to four birds per day per member.

## **Fawn Season is Dangerous**

Fawn drop starts during the last week of May. Fawns are cute, fast, and dangerous.

During June and July, the coyotes prey upon fawns. In daylight, coyotes prefer to hunt the field edges, rather than venture into the open. The doe put their offspring where the predators are not, leaving the fawns bedded in the tall grass while they feed in the woods.

Unfortunately, our dogs hunt the tall grass. The dog cannot smell the fawn, but the fawn senses its presence and runs for the woods and mom. The dog gives chase. The trouble starts in the woods. The doe will put herself between the dog and the fawn, like she does with the coyotes. Emboldened, the dog will advance and the doe will raise its front feet to stomp the dog. If the doe strikes the dog, the dog will be hurt quickly and badly.

A couple of years ago, my friend, Jan in Wisconsin, lost her master hunter to an encounter with a doe. By the time she ran to the woods, her dog was on the ground unable to get up. The next day, an aneurysm formed in the damaged aorta and ruptured, killing the dog. Also, a couple of years ago, a club member put up a fawn by the horse corral. The e-collar would not stop the dog, so he sprinted to the woods. The doe was between the dog and the fawn. He collared the dog before anything happened.

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In fawn season, do not have your dog off leash at the club without an e-collar. On your e-collar transmitter, program one button on continuous low for training and one button on continuous high for "trash", deer, skunks, and snakes. Collar settings vary with the dog; find out what works for your dog before you go to the field. The trash button makes the dog yelp in pain and promptly return to your side, no matter how excited it is. Ensure that the transmitter and collar are fully charged; a drained transmitter does not have full signal strength. Test the transmitter and the collar before you buckle it to the dog. Errors are lethal; all components must work.

When you walk a field, walk on the high ground so you can see the dog at all times. In fields #2, 3, and 4, the tractor road is the high ground. Never let the dog get out of sight. Call the dog back in if it goes out too far.

A doe will deposit a fawn in unlikely places, like next to the club house. Be vigilant. You may jump three fawns in a 30 minute walk or none.

If your collar fails to persuade the dog to return, sprint to the woods. You have seconds to collar the dog before the doe escalates the encounter.

## **Fence**

Although we have fenced the property that borders Jackson Springs Road, the east side of fields 1 and 3, and the north side of Field 5, we have not fenced all 100 acres. If you have a dog that runs big and does not recall, your dog can easily go off the property. Members have found lost dogs, but often miles away. To get help finding your dog, call Ozzie Osborne.

## **Guests**

Members are welcome to bring guests for three visits. After the third visit, the guest should join the club or stop coming.

## **Club House**

The club house was built in the 1930's and is showing its age. Termites have destroyed the floor joists in the kitchen so the kitchen is now locked. The toilette in the bathroom does not work so the bathroom is locked as well. A PortaPotty is installed outside.

Members are not allowed to spend the night inside the club house.

Clean up after use or the mice will take over. Do not leave any food out for the mice to eat. There is no trash can in the house because everyone takes their trash with them.

Cold drinks are available for \$1 in the porch refrigerator. The money can is on a shelf on the inside of the door.

The pigeon and quail food is housed in garbage cans on the porch.

## **Septic Tank and Leach Field**

The septic tank and leach field lies between the house and the pigeon coop. There are signs marking its location. Do not drive over or park on the septic system.

## **Blaze Orange**

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You must wear blaze orange when on the grounds. A single garment (vest, hat, coat) will suffice. It is important that you are visible to other members who must determine where you are training so as to stay out of your way. Your dog does not have to wear blaze orange. Shooting glasses, leather gloves, and hearing protection are optional.

## **Hunting License**

A NC Hunting License is required by law when training dogs. "Individuals engaged in training dogs and individuals who are active participants in field trials must have an appropriate hunting license.", Hunting Regulations, NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

## **Trash, Dead Birds, Spent Hulls, and Dog Waste**

The club does not purchase weekly trash pickup. You are responsible for removing all food, trash, spent hulls, and dead birds when you leave the grounds. Do not throw dead birds into the trees. Dead birds attract undesirable scavengers like raccoons, skunks, and coyotes.

If your dog defecates near the club's buildings, you are responsible for removing the waste. You can use the shovels on the property to move dog waste to the trees away from the heavily trafficked areas.

## **Four Wheelers, Golf Carts, Horses**

Four wheelers and golf carts are permitted on the grounds as long as the vehicle remains on the tractor roads. Do not drive off the tractor road. The club has invested too much time, money, and effort into planting and maintaining the warm season grass cover for it to be damaged by vehicles.

If you would like to leave a vehicle at the club, call the President. There is limited storage space and electricity. You will be assigned a parking spot if one is available.

Horses are permitted on the grounds. Like with four wheelers and golf carts, we would like horses to remain on the tractor roads to preserve the grasses. Park your horse trailer so as not to block access to the front gate or the buildings. Remove manure in the paddock or near a tie out at the end of your training.

## **Launchers**

The club has four DT Systems 500 series launchers with two transmitters for member use. The launchers are kept on the porch on the west side of the clubhouse. Laminated instructions and a sign out sheet are next to the launchers. Test each launcher with its transmitter before you go to the field.

The transmitters and receivers both use 9 volt batteries. Bring at least two 9 volt batteries, one for a transmitter and one for a receiver. When the launcher receiver servo cannot move the release lever, the battery voltage is too low. When batteries are changed, both transmitter and receiver will have to be reprogrammed. When you return the launcher and transmitter, be sure to turn the launcher off. The launcher receiver will turn off by itself in two hours, but at a cost of shortened battery life.

## **Pigeons**

Pigeons are a useful and inexpensive training tool in the early stages of making a pointing dog steady to wing, shot, and fall. The club houses 40 birds in an 8 foot x 12 foot pigeon coop divided into two adjoining sections; a 4 foot x 8 foot locked coop to isolate newly acquired birds, mating pairs, and

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squabs, and an 8 foot x 8 foot training coop for flight conditioned birds for member use. The training coop is secured by a combination lock. An expanded metal floor allows droppings to fall to ground minimizing dust.

Do not use pigeons that are sitting on eggs or chicks. Do not use leg banded pigeons; they are being flight trained. Do not take more pigeons for training than you can release back to the coop in an hour.

Only a small percentage of members actively train with pigeons. To keep member dues low, the club encourages pigeon users to be responsible for feed costs, which are in excess of \$500 to feed 40 pigeons for a year. The club recommends that members contribute \$.50 on an honor system for each pigeon used. It becomes obvious to those who feed and water the birds that someone is not contributing. Do not be surprised if someone asks you about your payment history.

If you have a training accident in which your dog kills a pigeon, do not despair because it happens. Modify your training to make it less likely to happen again or talk to Ozzie about using another approach. Do not leave the dead pigeon on the grounds; take it with you. Dead birds attract unwanted critters. Consider leaving \$20.00 in the donation box and a note that a pigeon came to an untimely end.

You will need your own bird bag to take pigeons from the coop to the training field.

### **Quail**

Inside the green tobacco barn is a wire mesh enclosed room where members can maintain a quail box to store personal quail. The club does not provide quail for sale; members buy their own quail from a local propagator and feed and water them in their own quail box. The club will negotiate a special quail season price from one grower. The club does not provide a quail box; you will have to build your own to club specifications. The club will provide the feed box and water bottle for your quail box. The club does provide quail food and cedar chips for \$20 per year, you cannot provide your own food. Call John Patrick (910-644-4041) if you want to store quail in the barn. John will give you instructions on how to build a box and where to buy quail.

A quail box will hold 20-25 birds comfortably. The longer birds are in your box the less likely they will fly well. Birds that do not fly well will be caught by young dogs, which is not good for their training. It is better to buy only enough birds for two weeks of training and then buy fresh birds.

Quail boxes have ½ inch wire mesh floors to allow droppings to fall into the waste tray. A waste tray under a box with 10 or more birds will fill in two weeks. If the droppings begin to accumulate and touch the wire mesh floor, they will quickly corrode the wire mesh. One day you will pick up your box, only to have the floor drop out, which has happened. Every two weeks empty the tray outside the barn and put in new cedar shavings to absorb liquids.

Take your dead birds with you. Dead birds dumped in the woods attract coyotes and other vermin.

You will need your own bird bag to take your birds from your box to the training field.

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## **Frozen Training Birds**

On the club house rear porch, there is a refrigerator whose freezer is full of game birds (pheasant, duck, chukar, and quail). If, at some point in your training, you need a frozen bird, these birds are handy. Put the bird back in the freezer after you use it. If the bird is coming apart and no longer retrievable, put it in a plastic bag and dispose of it at home.

## **Weekend Use**

Members use the club on fall and winter weekends more than at any other time. Be considerate and use good manners. Find out where other members are training by looking at the sign-in sheet or by walking the grounds. Use part of the grounds where you will not interfere and where live fire poses no danger. Leash your dog if you have to walk through an area that is being used. Nothing is more annoying than your dog busting another member's planted birds. It is also irritating when members using a whole field all day not allowing any training time to other members. Every member should have some opportunity to train even if it is short. You may have to limit your training time if the club is very crowded to get everyone worked in. If there is a confrontation, back off, and call the President.

There are three fields (#5, 6, 7) on the north edge of the property that are seldom used even on the weekends. There is fence on the north side of Field #5, but no fence, just signs, on the north boundary of Fields #6 and 7 with our neighbor who is an avid deer hunter. If you use these fields, do not let your dog trespass onto our neighbor's property.

## **We are not a Gun Club**

Although the club has several clay target throwers for its shooting instruction courses, the club is not set up for clay target shooting. If you want to shoot 50 rounds at clay targets, go to a trap, skeet, or sporting clays facility. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission operates shooting ranges across the state with low cost trap and skeet facilities. The Lentz Hunter Education Complex in Ellerbe is the closest public range to the club. The closest private range open to the public is at Dewitt's Game Farm in Ellerbe.

Do not discharge high powered rifles on the property. Rifles are too loud and cause gun shyness problems with young dogs.

## **We are not a Hunt Club**

If you want to set out 40 birds and invite five of your closest friends for a hunt, we are not that place. We do not have enough property for a large hunt to occur safely while members are training. There are a number of hunting preserves within a 20 mile radius that would be delighted to accommodate you and your friends.

## **Electrical Disconnects**

Electricity for the entire site runs through a panel mounted to a telephone pole to the right of the pole barn. Power to the house and well goes from the pole barn panel to a panel mounted to the outside wall to the left of the faucet. Breakers in both panels are labeled.

## **Water**

We get water from a 12 foot bored well in front of the quail barn. The pump switch is on the outside of the well cover. There are spigots by the club house back door and the pigeon coop. The water is safe for dogs, but not for humans.



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There is a black tub next to the house spigot. The tub can be filled on hot days for dogs to immerse themselves. Be sure to dump the tub and turn it over at the end of the day. If not, there will be algae growing in the tub in short order.

Although the water table is high most of the year, the well is shallow and easily drained if a spigot is left open. Never turn on a spigot and leave it to do something else. You will forget and the well will run dry.

The well pump is left 'on' in the summer because we are drip irrigating the crepe myrtle trees next to the George Worst Memorial. The well pump is turned 'off' in the cold months and the house pipes drained. As the weather turns colder and the chance of overnight frost increases, never leave a hose attached to a spigot. The water in the hose will freeze first causing the water in the spigot to freeze breaking the spigot. All hoses use quick disconnect fittings, If you have never used a quick disconnect fitting, ask someone who has.

## **Club Workdays**

Club members should participate in work days, which typically happen on an off season Saturday. The Secretary will notify you well in advance. Projects vary from highly strenuous (stringing fence) to lightly strenuous (picking up sticks). There is always something to do on a large property. Workdays are a great way to meet other members with similar interests. Sometimes, we even serve lunch.

## **Specials Skills**

You may have a chainsaw and enjoy cutting trees. You may have grown up on a farm and know how to operate farm machinery (tractor with attachments like a bush hog, harrow, or box blade). You may know how to operate heavy equipment (backhoe, bulldozer, or excavator). You may have carpentry skills. You may enjoy cooking for a large group. You may have graphic design skills. You may be a wizard with QuickBooks. Whatever skill you have, do not keep it hidden. Let the President know what you can or would like to do. The most arcane expertise may be a real asset to the club at some point.

## **Club Facebook Page**

The club's Facebook page has the club calendar and member photos. We encourage members to post their photos with a description and a date.

## **Club Calendar**

The club calendar is on the club's Facebook page.

Typically, there are two club AKC Hunt Tests each fiscal year (November and January). Two tests occur on a Saturday, one in the morning and one after lunch. We do lease the property to other clubs for hunt tests. The grounds are closed for training. No bitches in season are allowed on the grounds from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon of a Hunt Test weekend.

The club calendar will list other club events (work days, fun hunts, shooting instruction, training seminars, Wounded Warrior hunt, youth hunts). The grounds may or may not be closed for training during these events.

## **Club Governance**

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A seven member Board of Directors manages club affairs and meets regularly. If you have an issue that Board should consider, you are welcome to call the President, listed at the beginning of this Guide.

Member meetings to vote in new members and discuss club issues are typically held in September, November, January, March, and May. The November and January meetings are held at noon on the Saturday of a Hunt Test weekend. To be eligible to vote, you must attend two member meetings in the last 12 months, with the exception of new members who can vote for 12 months after joining.

The annual meeting is held in May and elects the new officers and board members,

The club's bylaws are on the club website.

## **Membership Renewal**

The club's fiscal year begins on September 1. The membership renewal period starts with the new year and goes for 60 days until November 1. The club Secretary will send three email notifications starting in August. The renewal application is available on the club's website. Payment is by credit card on the website. After November 1, if you have not renewed, you will be considered a lapsed member and will have to go through the whole membership process as if you were a new member. On November 1, the Secretary will send the new lock combination to paid members and announce the lock change date.

If you joined the club in the last quarter (June, July, August), you do not have to renew for the upcoming year.

## **No Poisonous Snakes**

The Thomas family has farmed our property since 1928. They have never seen a rattlesnake, copperhead, or water moccasin. The Thomas's had family members with farms within 10 miles who had all three species. We have never seen a poisonous snake either. That is not to say that venomous snakes will not move in at some point. We do have milk snakes with markings like a copperhead, but their necks taper gradually to their heads. Pit viper necks end abruptly at their triangular heads.

## **Ticks**

Ticks are active all year. There are fewer ticks after the first hard frost, but a 60 degree day in midwinter will bring them back out. Your dog should be using monthly tick protection throughout the year. You should carry tweezers or a tick extractor device with you to remove ticks off your dog and yourself. Some club members remove all their training clothes when they get home and put them in the dryer to kill any ticks.

## **Controlled Burns**

Each year, the club burns sections of the grounds to control unwanted plants and accelerate grass growth. In early March, we will freshen the fire breaks by dragging a disk set behind the tractor. Burns take place after the March Hunt Test and before full green up. Members will be notified when a burn will occur. The club is closed during a burn; it is simply too dangerous to train. Weather conditions determine when and how much burning will happen on a given day.

## **Herbicide Application**

Throughout the growing season, the club spot sprays a variety of herbicides to control unwanted plants like dog fennel, sweet gum, poke weed, jimson weed, blackberry, and passion flower. Although a

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controlled burn helps, the quality of the grounds depends on using herbicides. It is obvious that spraying is happening when you see the tractor in the field towing a spray tank. The herbicides are not toxic to dogs, but we advise that you stay away from treated areas for 2 hours. We stay on site for those 2 hours to alert anyone who plans on training.

## **Stump Holes**

All the open fields that you see today were once forested, primarily with loblolly pine. When the land was cleared some stumps were removed, most were left in place. The Sandhills Area Land Trust, the first owner, decided not to use a stump rake for fear of disturbing the top soil. Over time bacteria and termites destroy the stump leaving a round 1-2 foot deep hole. We are trying to fill these holes as quickly as members find them. If you see a hole, you can mark it with a bamboo stick tied with yellow surveyor's tape. The sticks are stored on every field. Sometimes sticks are not at hand, so the complete SPBC dog trainer always carries a roll of surveyor's tape, preferably yellow. Tape is available at Lowes or Home Depot. Tie a two foot length of tape to a nearby tuft of grass. However you mark the hole, we will come by with dirt in the tractor bucket to fill it.

## **Sandburs**

The sandbur is an annual grass with hard spiked round seeds. It is a dangerous plant; once a seed lodges between a dog's toes, the dog starts to limp or simply stops moving. Carry tweezers or a hemostat with you. Without a tool, it is simply too painful to remove a sandbur by hand. Once a bur is removed, the dog will stop limping and start hunting normally. If you pull a bur off your dog's coat or from between its toes, do not discard it on the ground. The bur will sprout where you drop it, even on the most inhospitable ground. Carry a small plastic bag in your hunting vest and put the bur in it.

A burn does not destroy the seeds. The plant is too hard to see to effectively spray. They grow in colonies close to where the prior year's seeds drop. The seeds are carried by animals and people from place to place; the wind does not carry them. The seeds mature in July-September when they appear on the dogs.

There is another grass that has round, spiked seeds. When you touch the seed, it is soft. When you touch a sandbur, it is hard and sharp; it hurts. The touch test works every time.

When you find a sandbur single or colony, mark it with a bamboo stick with pink surveyor's tape tied to it. The bamboo sticks are stacked in every field. Because the roots are so shallow, sandburs are easy to dig up. Late season digging appears to be the most effective way to control them. Carefully remove the soil from the roots without dropping any burs and put the whole plant in a dog food bag found in the pole barn. Leave the dog food bag in the pole barn for disposal.

## **Long Leaf Pine**

In 2011, as part of its Land Management Plan, the club planted Long Leaf Pine seedlings on sections of the property. The seedlings vary in height between a foot to several feet depending on soil and light conditions. Native to the Sandhills, the tree grows slowly with a deep tap root and is resistant to fire and wind. Take care not to walk on or ride over the seedlings.

Turpentine of virgin stands of long leaf in Pinehurst did not start until the railroads were built from Fayetteville from 1880 onward. Prior to the railroads, there was no economical way, like a river, to get

# Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club, Inc.

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the turpentine and resin to the coast. With the advent of cheap transportation, the harvesting accelerated so fast that, when James Walker Tufts bought 5,800 acres in 1895 to build the Pinehurst resort, the land was simply covered with stumps and grass as far as one could see.

The customary practice was to cut openings known as "boxes" on either side of the tree near the base to collect the resin. The boxes were 8 – 14 inches wide running up to 7-8 inches along the tree length and 4-6 inches deep. The trunks were hacked (cut with a chevron of grooves called a "catface") above these boxes exposing new surfaces from which resin oozed and collected in the box below. The hacking continued upward as high as a worker can conveniently reach. The tree was worked for 5-7 years until the sap stopped flowing or the tree died. The wood in the hacked areas becomes saturated with resin, much like amber, and resists rot. After 100 years, the hacked sections are all that remain of the tree.

The club property had stands of virgin long leaf in its drains. The drains could not be farmed nor could they be grazed. Sometime after 1890, these large trees were boxed and hacked. There are great examples of resin saturated stumps in the drain between fields 3 and 5. The boxes and hacks are clearly visible.

## **Crop Tree Release**

You may notice that some trees in the drains are marked with blue paint. Blue paint designates trees that are to remain after the 2020 crop tree release. Crop tree release is a common forest management technique where smaller, undesirable trees are culled, leaving the desirable hardwoods with more sunlight around their crowns and available water. The Three Rivers Land Trust received a grant for a forester to complete this task. You will notice that the unwanted trees have a ring cut around their base. This is the result of the "slash and squirt" technique that is used to kill the trees. The bark is cut with a hatchet and sprayed with a herbicide that gradually kills the tree. The opening of the canopy is a ten year process in which the dead trees fall or are cut and repeated burns consume the trees. The goal is for the drains to become open, grass covered oak savannahs.

## **Lost and Found**

There is a box near the sign in outside the club house front door that contains items found on the grounds.

## **Help with Training**

If you are having a training problem with your dog, there is someone in the Club who can help you. If you call Ozzie Osborne, he may be able to help you himself or refer you to someone who can. If you would like to train with someone or you need someone to shoot for you, Ozzie can help as well.

Training with other people will make you a better trainer faster, simply because you will see more and different dogs with different problems. Training in the summer is a great way to perfect more complex behaviors without the pressure of hunting and testing season being around the corner.

If you are a person who needs to know where you are going before you start, there are two books that club members keep using: Paul Long, "Training Pointing Dogs" and Martha H. Greenlee, "Training with Mo". Paul died in 2003, but was active in North Carolina from the mid-1960's. Paul was an active trainer at the time e-collars were first introduced. E-collars were crude and the training methods were not sophisticated. Paul's book offers old school training methods, some of which are still in use today.

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Maurice "Mo" Lindley lives and trains in South Carolina. In fact, Mo started training dogs under Paul's supervision when Mo was a teenager. Several members have used Mo over the years and have enjoyed working with him. Mo's methods reflect modern thinking about dog training. Both books explain the training process from start to finish.

Bob Farris is a long time NAVHDA judge and breeder of Pudelpointers. "Breeding & Training Versatile Hunting Dogs for Hunting and Hunt Tests" is an excellent compendium of training methods and tips.

Monks of New Skete and Mark Goldberg, "The Art of Training Your Dog, How to Gently Teach Good Behavior Using an E-collar", a sophisticated presentation of safe and effective e-collar use.

If you spend a lot of time in your vehicle and want to listen to something different, there are a number of podcasts devoted to upland hunting and dogs. The Blue Tooth feature in the vehicle audio system will link up with your mobile phone and the podcast you select. The topics are varied: bird dogs, dog training, shotguns, hunting venues, bird species, and interviews. Be sure to subscribe to the one's you like.

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