



SPORTING DOGS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT



Who are we?

CHAIR

Dr. Joe Wilson (Zone H)

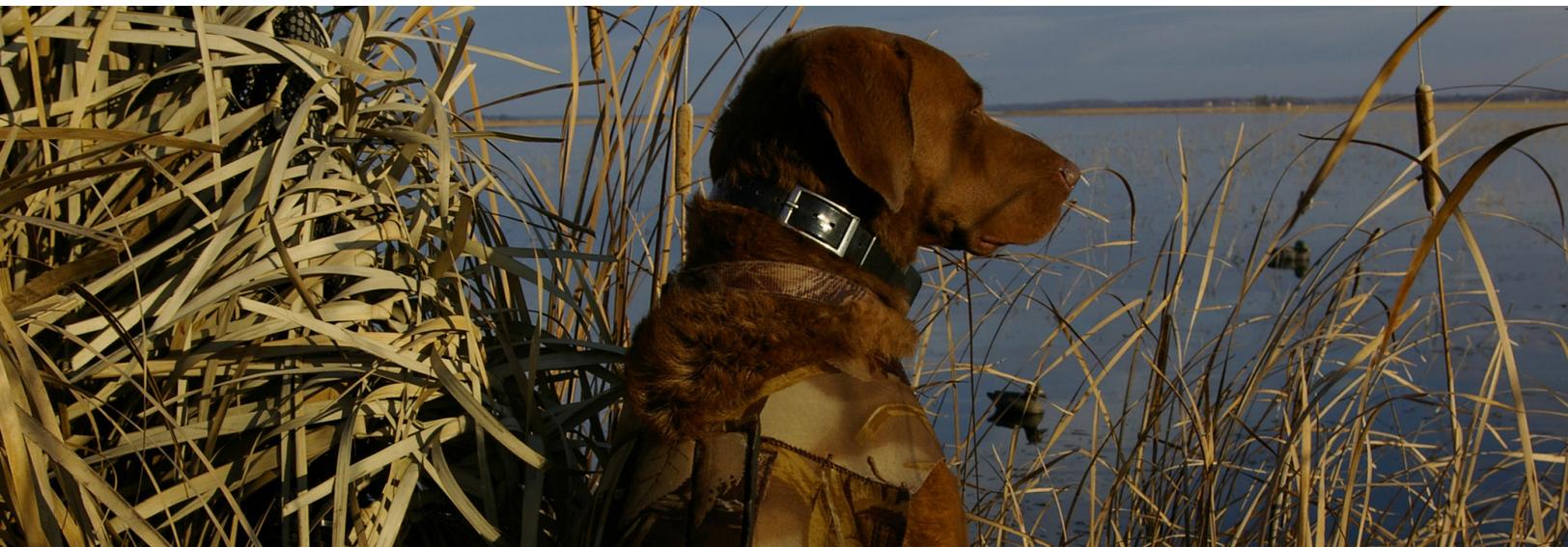
MEMBERS

Jim Baker (Zone J)
Greg Steeves (Zone E)
Lauren Tonelli (Staff Liaison)



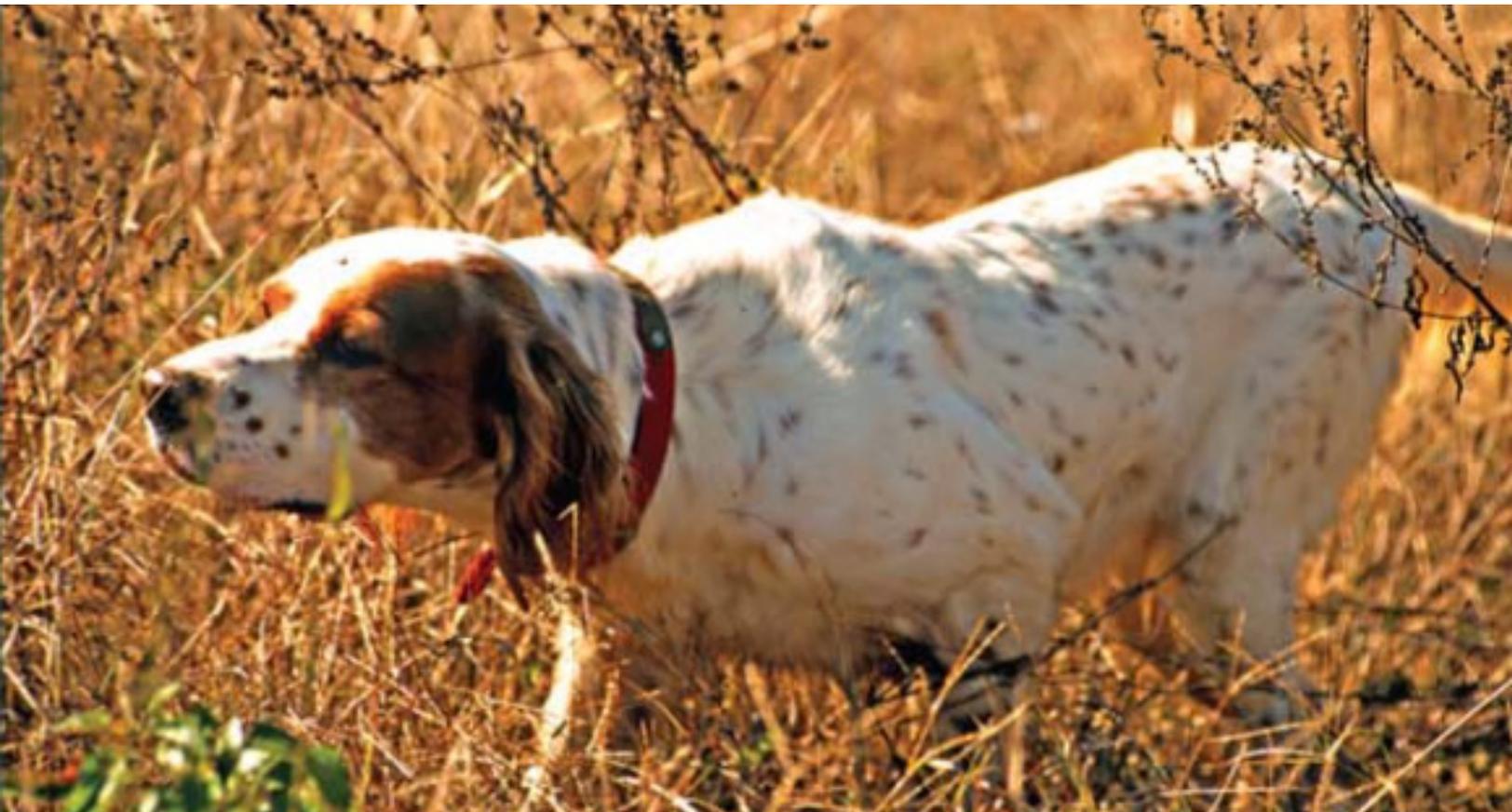
Enforcement & Code of Conduct

On February 28, 2019, we held a meeting at Midhurst District MNR, with the director of enforcement branch, acting supervisor of Southwestern Ontario, and enforcement manager of the Midhurst Area. Also in attendance was Dan Elliott, 1st vice president of OFAH, two area coyote hunters and myself, Joe Wilson. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss why coyote hound hunters are being targeted by conservation officers and why COs have become more aggressive toward all hunters in the field, be it moose hunters in Northern Ontario, deer hunters, or rabbit and hare hunters using beagles. It was decided that the OFAH Sporting Dogs Advisory Committee, in conjunction with the Ontario Sporting Dog Association, Ontario Deer Hound Association and the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, would create a code of conduct for hunting with dogs in order to educate noncompliant hound hunters and alleviate landowner complaints. This is currently being produced as a pamphlet to be distributed to hunters.



Dogs and Trespassing

Considerable time and effort have also been directed to assist hunters who have been charged by COs when their hounds cross signed property. There have been three separate charges laid to date. The OFAH sent a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to inform him of our concerns and implore his ministry to join us in a more outreach-based approach that protects the traditions and future of hunting with hounds.



Training and Trialing

Discussions are being held regarding train and trial areas for hounds and beagles. These conversations will continue in 2020.

Training and trialing on Conservation Authority property is being discussed, and we are putting forth an increased effort toward this goal in 2020

