



Spring Hunting, Aldie and Bryn Mawr

We started 2012 with a New Year's Day hunt on Sunday at **Marsh Creek**. Horseback riders, mountain bikers and people with loose dogs were everywhere enjoying the day, which along with fresh fertilizer on some of the fields made scenting difficult. Hounds thoroughly worked the old track oval hedgerows and the right hand trail down toward the Brandywine, but except for a yip and rush to ground at a tangle by Mischief as we started, there was no action. They worked the center strip and through the woods along Chalfant Road, ignoring a deer that crossed through the middle as they drew. Drawing back there was interest in several tangles in the oval hedgerows and the line down to the south woods, but the rest of the rabbits stayed in. We had a bounteous kennel tailgate to end the day as it started to sprinkle. Wednesday we met at CFS. It was a bitterly cold and windy 17°f, but hounds got up and ran one rabbit the length of the right field inside the hedgerow to ground, and another that got quickly to ground on the way back to the lane. It was the same across the other side with one quickly to ground inside the hedgerow to end the morning. Quarry and Sabine and Sousa were super as hounds worked every inch of cover. On Saturday we hunted a 3 couple at Milky Way Farm, which we've not hunted for a while, to give new staff a look at the lay of the land. Hounds ran a rabbit to ground in the big hedgerow across the road, as we gave a wide berth to goose hunters in the near fields. On the 8th at **The Dougherty's**, we hunted the hedgerow cover above the Burns's and the big hill covert above the old schoolhouse. Mischief got up a doubling rabbit that they worked from pile to pile to ground. The upper field tangles and the hedgerow toward the Catties' were blank, and the hedge line down to the road had been cleaned out, so we drew back through the bottom of the hill covert and crossed the creek to the Burns's to draw the bank up to the Dougherty's. Hounds worked thoroughly in the lefthand tangles above Allor's to end the day. Joanna's tea afterwards was most welcome. On the training hunt on Wednesday January 11, Laura's last day out with us before returning to college, the rabbits got quickly to



Driving a rabbit at Church Farm



A fast Cottontail at Kennels!

ground. The first was in the center stream line which they pushed out and worked to ground back at the stream feeder cover point. Crossing over to the track hedge line, they worked a couple in and out and back to ground. On the other side of the lane, they spoke briefly inside the hedge line on a short run to ground to end the day. Saturday at Jefferis's, hounds got up and ran two to ground, one in the side woods line and one in the tree plantings. Sabine and Uwchlan were the stars of the morning. Sunday the 15th January we met at **Milky Way Farm**. We were constricted to hunting the northern covers, as we'd found an untagged trap in the south area where the rabbits are usually plentiful. Hounds thoroughly scoured the hedgerows and the woods lot borders and the promising cover around the abandoned house to no avail, covering a lot of ground on a beautiful afternoon. The Farnhams' wonderful tea was a fine ending to the day. Wednesday the 18th we had a below freezing bone chiller at Marsh Creek. Hounds spoke once or twice but no runs or views. They drew every inch. Friday night the snow and sleet were right on schedule, and it continued into Saturday morning. Happily Kennels got a light hit compared to much of the area, and I had the runs cleared by 11:30. Dave Duvall arrived to clear the hillside drive to the entry doors, and we were done with hounds fed and snug by 12:30. Sunday January 22 at **Church Farm** was tough hunting in the powder. We first got up a short runner out of the pond area tangles that quickly ran out across the track to ground. The hounds were continually marking holes with fresh rabbit tracks around them in the long briar hedgerows. Coming in from the far meadow line, they accounted for two in the corner tangle and tree cutting piles where Salsa, the star of the morning, literally climbed all through the last big tree pile from top to bottom trying to force a bunny out to end the hunt. We took hounds back to kennels to clean up before the hunt breakfast at Riverstone Cafe in Exton, which was grand. Marsha was super to find it to take us on short notice after we got a call Saturday that the America Bar and Grill had been suddenly closed. The Riverstone proved to be the best place we've had—even had oysters on the halfshell as part of the buffet! It was great to have the Hingleys, Lamesons, Jean Jarrett, Penny Jaeger and Bobby Neilson with us there along with the usual suspects. A fine end to a frigid morning! Wednesday we walked the pack at kennels.

Saturday we had a training hunt at CFS, which went very well. Sunday we met at **Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferis's** on the 29th. Hounds worked the tree plantings cover, the woods below kennels and all the hedgerows around the property with no action until Salsa drove a bunny to ground on the far north side in a heavy briar tangle to end the day. The tailgate afterwards was a delicious ending to the month.

We hunted at kennels on Wednesday February 1st. It was a fine morning, with two rabbits run to ground. The first was driven out of the briar tangle at the tenant house and run down to the stream behind the carriage shed. They worked it along the stream briars to a mark below the hill. Drawing back to the carriage shed they got another up, which they ran in the cover and across the lower grass area up to the main house borders to ground in the stone wall. We then took the 3 couple back to kennels and got the remaining 4 couple out for a long walk to end the morning. Saturday we again had a nice hunt at kennels with a find at the tenant house and good run to ground, and a quick mark in the upper meadow hedgerow, then a find on the way in on the left hedge line above the lower field that ran out through and toward Dowlin Forge Road. We gave it best and returned to kennels for a walk with the rest of the pack including the hot bitches. Sunday February 5th we hunted **Twin Ridges Farm** for the first time in a while and it was a big disappointment. The hedge lines had been ground up and much of the cover was stripped after the August and October storm cleanup. Dick Weber had warned me that it was greatly changed. Even the quarry covert, that has been a sure find in the past, was a near blank as well, til Salsa literally dug a rabbit out of the heavy briar tangle and the pack, squirming underneath, drove it to ground in the middle in about twenty yards to end the day. Well! We finally had a good week's hunting all through. Wednesday February 8th at CFS was great. We started with Robin flushing a rabbit out of the brush piles behind the barns and run back to the upper end of the side hedgerow to ground. They then ran two rabbits in and out of the hedgerow beyond the grassy meadow to ground in the stream corner, then worked down to the pond, where a rabbit blew out and crossed the field below the bank road to ground in the rock pile at the top of the rise. Drawing back, they got up a rabbit in the hedgerow towards Route 30 that ran to the top and back to ground in the stream tangle to end this fine morning. Saturday was a quick cleanup of the snow squall in the kennel runs and the barn drive. Gene and Dick and I made light work of it, then fed and stretched hounds. Sunday the 12th February was a good, rabbit filled afternoon at **Allerton Farm**. The snow, standing water and mud made scenting tough, but hounds had several good runs. We hunted the left side of the farm Drawing down behind Mose Cornwell's, we found a good running bunny in the left field corner that hounds ran in a big loop across the stream and back to ground. Sabine's big voice kept the pack together as she drove it up the stream to a mark. We worked the stream cover, holing a muskrat on the way, down to Allerton Road and back, and got up another rabbit in the corner that they put to ground, and then drew the field hedgerow



Working a double at Allerton Farm



Joint meet with Ardrossan at Welkenweir

back to Mose's woods. A tight-sitting rabbit ran out below them and ran left to a tangle patch. I lifted hounds down to the view as this muddy rabbit broke out to cross the field down toward the stream. Hounds picked their way to the corner and drove it in cry back across the stream, around the cane stand on the hill field and back down into the stream cover where Sabine and Salsa drove it to ground. Hounds worked back to the woods and up the hill behind Mose's to the hedgerow at the meet. They dug in, and our 4:00 rabbit burst out and ran into a big thorny brush pile and safety. The tea afterwards at Lydia Bartholomew's Lucky Hill Farm was delightful with her super deer chili and sandwiches, and Gene's quiche Lorraine and pies. Lydia also generously had a drawing for afternoon seats in her box at the Devon Horse Show. David Harrison won the drawing! A fine end to our best Sunday hunt in a couple of weeks. **Sunday the 19th at Green Valleys at Welkenweir** was a joint meet with Ardrossan Beagles. It started with anxious moments as we arrived to find the parking area gates still locked, but we guided all in to park on the east drive meadow. We hunted the east woods edge for our first draw, then crossed the creek at the spillway and drew right along the hillside woods cover above the pond. Scenting was tough, but the two packs worked well as one, covering the briars well. A rabbit was viewed along the hillside and hounds struck the line and opened. From there it was rush and check with occasional views on beyond the pond to a check, and we decided to draw across. A couple of the field got stuck in the boggy mire on the way over! On the other side, hounds picked and spoke as scent died. Doozie Illoway called down to us that a rabbit had been seen earlier coming up the hill and heading in to the pine stand on the left edge of the property near the road. We brought hounds up and they worked up to their rabbit, which finally blew out and raced downhill. Whippers-in at the bottom near the creek saw it come tearing down with Salsa right on its tail followed by the rest of the SFH and Ardrossan. It got into a brush tangle and made its escape. Hounds drew all around the bottom area, picking hard in several spots to no avail. We then drew on through the woods cover along the lower hillside and finished up digging in several big bush stands around the house and upper grounds to end the day. The tea afterwards at Susan Butler's was simply grand, and everyone felt that this must be done again next season. What a fine week it was. Wednesday's February 22nd training hunt at CFS was a good preview of solid work. Hounds had one nice run west of the lane, putting it to ground in the stream corner cover, and a short burst in the east hedgeline among the construction noise and

activity. Saturday Paul and Ginny fed hounds and got them out for a stretch at kennels. At **Sunday's meet on 26 February at Stonewall** we hunted the east woods cover strip above the fairway for our first draw, where the first rabbit raced down into the bottom to ground. We then crossed the creek and drew along the hillside tee cover where they flushed a rabbit out towards Gross's. They ran it through the upper hedgerow line to the woods and down into the lower tee where it made it into the swampy area along the stream to safety. Scenting was tough in the marshy area and we decided to draw across to the other side hill cover running along the fairway. Hounds drew all along to the back side again, and I lifted them across the fairway to the far hillside. They worked the woods and cover thoroughly, then a tight-sitting rabbit blew out in front of me at the edge of the cover and the chase was on! Hounds roared after it and it went about two hundred yards before doubling back and diving into an earth in a mound on the hillside. Salsa and Sousa were digging at the holes as I caught up to them. Just to make sure, we drew back and up the hedgerow towards the farmhouse where it had doubled back, but they came right back to the earth and marked strongly. We collected the pack then to end the day and headed back to the clubhouse. Valerie McCormick's tailgate tea with turkey chili afterwards was a great ending to this beautiful day. We dodged the predicted rain and hunted at Jefferis's on Tuesday to end the month. Hounds scoured the area, and found a rabbit for a run in the side woods cover to ground.

Sunday March 4th at White Acres Farm was a super hunt. The field saw hounds and the young entry in kennels before the start. After a long draw up from the pond up the stream cover all the way to the top of the property and crossing down to work the center hill hedgerow and the cover above the tenant house, we worked the hedgerow above the lower fields and hounds jumped a strong running rabbit. They drove across the middle field to the lowest hedgerow, where it doubled and crossed back in front of the followers to the middle again, and hounds worked the line right to the fence line cover above Dowlin Mill Road. They worked through in cry to a brush and log tangle and marked strongly but couldn't get to it. We drew back into the bottom hedgerow and hounds drove another bunny out for a run across the field to the tenant house. I saw it get through the fence, but hounds couldn't find a way through. They worked around the lower side trying to get to it. Suzie Castaldi saw it come out, then dodge back in the briars a few yards further on. Again hounds couldn't get through the fencing, so we drew on around the house to hopefully pick it up on the far side. They got another up in the cover above the pool and ran down to the driveway yew border toward the main house and went on in cry across the grass into the bushes and stream beyond the carriage house. They forced it out for a run back up the hill along the fence line. Not all were on, and the back lot hit the line and ran screaming on the line heel



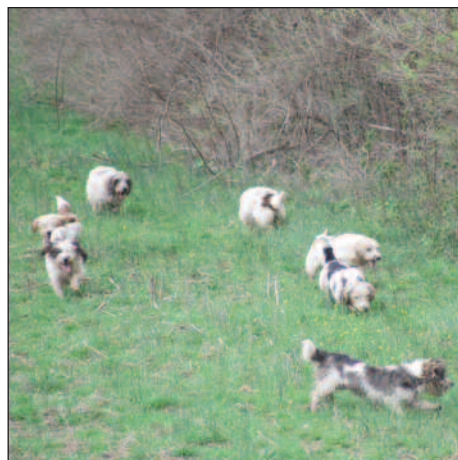
White Acres Farm.....hounds with their first rabbit!

back, pulling the front crew back with them. I got them turned around and Sabine hit the uphill line again with a roar and got the pack together for a nice bit of hound work along the fence line and across the middle field back to the bottom hedgerow where it went to ground to end this exciting day. The "Gentlemen's Tea" afterward at the house was super. The Whittakers had a roaring fire going, and Dick also gave a tour of their wonderful carriage collection. Hot tea and scotch eggs, tarts, sandwiches, crumb cake, cheeses, and other delights were a great restorative after the hunt. Wednesday's March 7 training hunt at CFS was a good morning with two rabbits well hunted, the first from the far field hedgerow through to the stream tangle to ground, and the second found in the center stream hedge line and put to ground after two circling bursts across the fields, along the creek and back to ground on the east bank side. **Sunday 11 March at the Brandywine Valley Association** was a super workout for hounds and staff. The first cover area from Corinne Road past the pond was blank, then we drew up the woods line on the right to the back side of the steeplechase course and hit paydirt (Literally! The swamp was mud). Hounds found their first rabbit along the hillside cover above the path and ran it down into the swampy center and the chase was on in earnest. Three rabbits were hunted all over the area for the next hour and a half, crisscrossing the swamp time and again from hillside to the bottom and up the far side as the first two were put to ground. Views of these tricky running bunnies were constant for all. After a final doubling run on the third rabbit back and forth through the mire and up the hill again, we gave it best to end this non-stop afternoon. The tea afterwards at the Harrisons' was excellent, including a charmingly hound-and-rabbit decorated birthday cake for David, and delicious quiches and sandwiches. Many thanks to Carol and her granddaughters! The training hunt Wednesday March 14 at Marsh Creek was a blank from the get-go, sadly. The clearing and deer have stripped much of the cover. We had a great work day at kennels on Saturday. Paul and Gillian Wiedorn vacuumed and washed all the kennel room and woodwork, and the work room. Dick Gross, Ginnie Beards, Gene Bolt and Jonathan Shaw cleaned the runs, gutters,

and removed old straw bedding. Phil Heth completely reconditioned all four of the kennel run benches. I worked on leveling the runs and varnishing the kennel benches and feeding hounds. The Savoy Company moved their sets and props into the barn for storage as our new tenants, which greatly will help with our rental costs, thanks to Gene Bolt. Sunday March 18th at the **Christiansen's Hearthstone Farm** was a mess. Scent was screaming as hounds drove a big rabbit through Christiansen's woods strips up to the pipeline—right into a big herd of deer. Four stayed with me, all but two of the rest of the pack were collected near Hedgerow Lane, and the S sisters at French Creek Golf Club, to end this frustrating day. The Rosatos' wonderful tea afterwards helped restore our spirits. Wednesday at Jeffries' we had a fine morning. Hounds found the first rabbit in the left hand woods strip and worked it in a loop to ground. Drawing the back hedge line, hounds found the second and had a nice doubling run to the back right woods corner and back into the tree farm where it ran into the work area and we gave it best to end the morning. Back at kennels, we got out the rest of the pack and fed. Marsha brought out great snacks while we waited for our state kennel inspector. We passed our inspection with flying colors. Saturday March 24 we hunted at kennels, sharpening up our three couple. Hounds got up their first rabbit in the right hand hedge line above Dowlin Mill Road and drove it out for a run down nearly to the road. As they worked the bottom cover, it blew out and ran back up the hill past me and ducked in. Hounds marked the hole. We then drew the hilltop hedgerow line across to the south and hounds found above the creek, where it came out and doubled back in to ground. We got the rest of the pack out for a training session with the young entry on couples with the older hounds to end the morning. Our **Closing Meet, Sunday March 25 at Church Farm**, was a fine day. Scent was super. The first hedgerow above the creek was blank, but hounds drove a bunny out of the copse at the top of the far field and ran it down to the creek tangle where it doubled back and buried itself. We then crossed the west field side above the pond and hounds worked up a rabbit below the service road that made a burst toward Route 30 and ran past the field and into the houses and safety. Hounds worked the pond edge back and ran several rabbits in the heavy cover below the running track, putting two to ground in the bank, and drove another out to cross the next field to the creek, marking in the corner. They worked the other side of the lane, getting up the last rabbit out of the hedgerow for a run before it made it back in and to ground. We crossed back to the creek strip, and after a final draw through the briars along the creek and back to the barns, we blew "Home" to end the day. Chris Peeples and his daughters Hilary and Alyssa gave us an excellent tea at their Vixen Hill Farm, a fitting end to our 64th season. Wednesday March 28 at



A double back...



Hounds driving...



Down the hole!

Kennels hounds ran a rabbit from the tenant house cover down to the creek to ground in the heavy tangles behind the carriage barn, then worked the creek line cover and the hillside patch. The second in the upper hedgerow got to ground quickly. At kennels we got the rest out and fed. Saturday at Hallman's, hounds worked their first rabbit through the first L shaped hedgerow to a big brush pile at the far end. They got it out for a good run to ground back down the hill. Crossing to the upper end of the next hedgerow near Thayer's, hounds found again and worked their rabbit back all the way to the bottom to the edge of the woods to ground. We then drew back and worked the center field cover, where they forced out the final rabbit for a dash across to the first hedge line to ground to end the morning. It was good to find game at Hallman's again. Sunday April 1 we walked out all hounds at kennels. It was Wessell's, Wagtail's and Wimsey's first big walk over the property with the pack, and they did very well. A nice end to the weekend. We had a good training morning at CFS April 4, with a fascinating rabbit from the upper field cover that dodged down to the creek and ran it to the left in and out of the water and finally swam the pond. We drew back to work the banks to the lane with no further action. Saturday we hunted Berry's thoroughly. Larry and the Ss worked every inch. On Easter Sunday we had an early walk at kennels and the young hounds were great. Wednesday April 11 was a super morning, with two fine hunts at CFS. Quarry got the first one up for a run from the stream corner out through the field weeds almost to the lane where it doubled back for a run along the creek and almost to the pond to ground. Then they worked a line up the hedgerow toward Rte 30, out into the upper field covert and into the far field. Sabine literally walked a rabbit up and led the pack driving it down the hill to the pond tangle and to ground. Saturday was at Hallman's, where Quarry got up the only rabbit of the morning, which the pack worked to ground in the upper hedgerow. We worked the rest of the area blank in the heat and dust. Sunday we arrived at Jeffries' to find the heat and dry grounds unrewarding, and returned to kennels to walk the rest of the pack. The puppies are blending in very well. We fed and cleaned up after treating all with Biospot in preparation for Aldie.

We had a good weekend at the Basset Trials. The rabbits were there but scent was poor and variable. There were some super hunts and some blanks. Upper Bay, Sandanona and Calf Pasture were excellent. We had a good 3 couple with a short run after working the upper enclosure area and a longer run near the end of our time, but not enough to score. In the middle of the day Saturday in hot sun our 5 couple found

one rabbit that immediately got to ground, and one box turtle!. In Sunday's bench show Larry and Salsa were reserve to the Dog and Bitch winners and showed very well for Laura Booth. Paul and Gillian Wiedorn, Ginny Beards, Gene Bolt, Phyllis Allen, Lisa, Laura and Nick Booth, Jonathan Schau, Melissa Hancock, and Marsha and I made up our Skycastle crew.



Aldie Three Couple...



Five Couple moving off...



Laura and Salsa...

The Bryn Mawr Hound Show, Saturday June 2nd, was a good one for us with tough competition among ten packs. The classes were big ones—averaged 12-16 entries. It was interesting to see many rough coats on the big crossbred bassets in most packs, a result of Skycastle Duchess's get being used widely at the Ripshin over the years. We had 10 ribbons, placing 3rd and 4th in almost all classes, then the pack class was super. We placed second to the Monkton Hall among 8 packs in the field, beating the vaunted Sandanona and Tewksbury! If one of Liz's hounds had run wide we'd have aced it. Our hounds did a great job all day. Laura and Lisa showed hounds with me in the ring classes and Phyllis whipped in for the Pack Class. These ladies did a really fine job with our hounds. Gillian and Paul kept the class numbers straight and made sure the right hounds were ready for each class, and Ginny Beards met me at kennels early this morning to help get us to the show on time. On Sunday our judge David Hindle and his wife Chris had a very pleasant morning with us at Kennels.



Larry....



Couples—Larry and Uwchlan



Winsey and Wagtail....



Couples—Roguish and Teasel



Our Five Couple Pack....



Sunday at Kennels with the Hindles....

Our 64th season went very well indeed. With the strange weather cycle, we never had to cancel a Sunday meet. We can all be very proud of our hounds and staff that gave such fine sport through this season. We owe a special thank you to George Jefferis and to Rev. Edmund Sherrill, Headmaster of Church Farm School, who let us use their grounds time and again for training and hunting. We will be exploring new and old meets on bye day hunts before Opening Meet this fall. Please let us know if you have any friends' properties in mind. Everyone is welcome to join us on bye days. Call Jim Scharnberg or Gillian Wiedorn for weekly Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday hunt training and exercise times and locations through the summer.

We owe our sport to our wonderful Landowners.

Annual Meeting at Vixen Hill Farm, May 20



Paul and Gillian Wiedorn receiving the Eliot Kalmbach Award



Our Hunt Committee Chairman and Ring Steward Gene Bolt



Logan Mazanec our Judge, Laura Booth, Paul Wiedorn, Gene Bolt, Gillian Wiedorn and Lisa Booth with Class Winners Sousa (Best Hound—Killeen Cup), Skylark (Best Retired Hound), Mischief (Best Veteran) and Wessells (Best Puppy), three generations of breeding!