



## Spring Hunting and Bryn Mawr

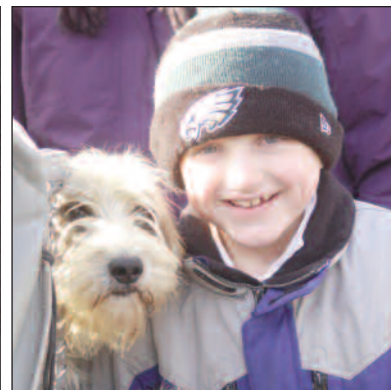
Our New Year's Day Morning Hunt at Kennels was a good start to 2015. We began with a draw along the creek cover, where hounds pushed out a huge rabbit that ran the field edge and got to ground down by the pond. Then we drew up the creek side past the carriage barn and worked the upper hillside cover and hedgerow blank. The second rabbit was pushed out of the center field hedgerow line and broke back across to the upper hedgerow, running toward the top to ground. We to the hedgerow line above Dowlin Road, and hounds put a short runner to ground in the tangle toward the kennels. Hounds worked back across to the tenant hous tree line and down to the stream again and worked



*Rabbit out of cover New Year's Day at kennels.*



*Final rabbit run at Marsh Creek.*



*Ned Farnham meeting hounds.*

up to the top hedge line to end the day. The tailgate of hot tea, soup, and other goodies was most welcome. Staff coverage was excellent. Dick Gross's son Steven was a fine whipper-in. Our hunt on Sunday January 4th at **Marsh Creek**, hounds started immediately on a rabbit that they drove around the trail cover to ground, then ran the second out to the right corner near the road. The center spike hedgerow and the far line had short runners. Coming back in, hounds found their final rabbit along the left side of the track oval and ran it to ground at the north end to finish the day. The tea at Susan Butler's was grand, a real meal with ham, salad and pies as well as hot sout and tea! On the 11th at **Mr. and Mrs. William Dougherty's**, was a good workout for hounds in the hillside covers. They marked one rabbit quickly to ground in the hedgerow near the Cattie's after digging through most of the cover blank, then worked back to the Drovers Lane side of the hill to end the day. There were deer, fox, weasel and rabbit tracks everywhere. Young Ned Farnham did a nice job his first time as a trainee whipper-in. The indoor tailgate in Nonnie Kennedy's spectacular warm party barn was super. Leaving for home, Marsha Scharnberg was accompanied by a beautiful big red fox along the lane almost out to Route 401. Wednesday Lisa Booth and I got the pack out for a stretch, and on Saturday Gene Bolt, Lisa Booth, David Harshaw and I got two four couple packs out for a good walk and training. Sunday's January 18 at **Milky Way Farm** was a nasty surprise. The supposed shower around 8 am became a freezing rain downpour. I went to the meet with hounds and David Harshaw and James Overstreet expecting a let-up, and called it off instead. We waited there to warn off anyone who didn't get the word, and went back to kennels to feed and clean up. Happily I had ice-melt covered the drive first thing, so we had no problems. The hunt breakfast at Riverstone was very pleasant, and with temperature in the 40° F range by noon, the roads were safe enough for most of the crowd to come. Sunday the 25th we met at **White Acres Farm**. The snow and ice crust were with us, so we exercised all hounds beforehand, then at 2 pm had a good walk



*White Acres Farm walk in the snow and ice.....and Gentlemen's Tea.*



*At Stonewall there was a new hound in the pack!*

with the pack and the field around the house and lower fields. The Gentlemen's Tailgate with a roaring fire afterwards was a delicious ending. We walked at kennels on Wednesday in brutal cold, and on Saturday January 31st did the monthly medications.



On Sunday February 1st we hunted at **Stonewall** for the first time in a while. Snow drifts and a herd of deer crossing into the cover area where we'd planned to have a short hunt changed the day to a good walk instead. Valerie McCormick's and Dolores Green's grand tea inside the clubhouse was a fine finish. The hunt at **Allerton Farm Gate** on the 8th saw a wonderful break in the weather. With the temperature in the 40s, we had good scenting and rabbits! Hounds found two rabbits in the upper field cover, running both in big loops to ground for almost an hour. We then drew down below Mose Cornwell's, finding a tricky one in the L shaped field hedgrow. Salsa and Sabine pushed it out from underneath the ground tangle, and the pack ran it back in again. There it popped out and leaped right over Salsa's back and to ground in a thick pile. After a final draw over along the stream cover, we called it a day and went in to a grand tea at Lydia Willetts Bartholomew's Lucky



*Allerton Farm—first rabbit.*



*Allerton—second rabbit to ground*

Hill Farm. It was more like a dinner with great chili and sandwiches, and Gene Bolt's pies. Lydia again offered a draw for a day in her box at the Devon Horse Show, won this year by non other than Gene Bolt! Sunday the 15th we cancelled **Church Farm** due to the arctic cold, wind and ice. David Harshaw and I met at kennels at 12:30, shoveled the hill drive clear and covered it with Ice-Melt, then cleaned and shoveled the runs, got all hounds out for a stretch, and fed the pack. We were done by 2 pm, and the Wiedorns and Heths arrived with goodies, along with Peggy's, for a tailgate tea. We all went up to the house to a roaring fire and a delightful warm-up with Peggy and Dick Whittaker. It was a very pleasant ending to a nice day with hounds. Dick took a photo with his I-phone of the frozen chosen. Wednesday February 18 and Saturday February 21 hounds got out for a stretch and walks at kennels, and the hill was coated with ice-melt for the Saturday evening storm. Sunday 22nd February we canceled **Jefferis's** and had a great afternoon at kennels after Saturday's snow and ice storm! Gene Bolt, Phil Heth, Valerie McCormick, Dolores Green, David Duvall and I worked hard to get the layer of ice out of the kennel runs, clean the lodge rooms, and get hounds medicated, fed and out for a good romp and feed. The place looked grand due to everyone's efforts. The tea committee—Cecilia Kalmbach, Rosemary Heth and Marsha Scharnberg—arrived with hot tea, soup and sandwiches and cheeses, and a surprise birthday cake for Dolores Green and the master! Gillian, Paul and Jonathan Wiedorn, Dick and Peggy Whittaker and Frank Pechin shared the sumptuous feast in balmy 44° f sunny weather—a wild change from Saturday's storm. Gene Bolt, Dick Gross and I walked hounds Wednesday, and Lisa and I



*February 22 work crew at White Acres after the storm...*



*And the birthday kids, Dolores and Jim!*

cleaned the icy runs and got hounds out at kennels to end the month.

We canceled the March 1st hunt at the Christiansens' **Hearthstone Farm** due to ice and another storm. It arrived right on schedule. Phyllis and I cleaned and scraped the snow out of the the runs, giving Hounds a stretch as well. Marsha arrived with hot soup and tea as we fed. Hounds got lots of hugs, then we had tea in my car after locking up for the day. Thursday David Duvall and I cleared the snow from the runs and hill drive as the latest snow storm ended. Sunday 8 March we walked the pack at Moore's **Great Marsh Farm** as it was still snow/ice sloppy. Hounds were ecstatic to get out beyond the confines of the big kennel yard. The tea afterward given by Rosemary and Phil Heth was a feast! Salmon and sandwiches, cheeses, pies and wonderful hot soup to restore us after slogging through the slush and mud. Wednesday March 11 we did a thorough cleaning of kennels and paddock as the snow and ice finally began to recede. Saturday at kennels was wet, but much-needed hunting. Sunday March 15th at Dick Weber's **Twin Ridges Farm** was a very good day for the pack after the long icy deep freeze.



They worked hard and thoroughly, accounting for their first rabbit in the briary knoll west of the quarry woods. Then they had a fine run inside the quarry covert, driving a rabbit from one end to the other with a fox running in front of it. The fox ran out across the farm lane, but hounds stayed with their rabbit, pushing it back and forth in the thick briar and tree falls to an accounting. They had several more runs along the north and south sides to marks in the tangles on short-running rabbits, but couldn't get them out for good runs and views. After a final draw around the knoll, we drew back up the farm lane to end this rewarding day. Tea at Judy and Don Rosato's was marvelous. They take very good care of us and we are extremely grateful! Gene Bolt and I hunted a three couple at Marsh Creek on Wednesday. Hounds holed their first rabbit beyond the curve, then worked a couple of short runners. The rest of the hedgerows were blank in the bitter cold and wind. Saturday March



*Cheslen—moving off.*



*Jefferis's—first rabbit to ground.*



*Jefferis's—fourth rabbit!*

21st at **Cheslen Preserve** we had a special hunt for the World Presidents' Association. It was a hard working day in the latest snow for the pack, but with the thermometer in the 50s scent was non-existent in the slush. They scoured the snowy coverts with nary a track seen. The field enjoyed a good walk and their children had a great time. Their buffet at the Preserve center afterward was grand. Sunday March 22nd at **Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferis's** we had a fine day despite the cold and wind. Hounds found in the tree farm cover almost at once, and drove it down to the hedgerow for a loop in the bottom into the heavy tangle. They worked back along the field border and followed a line into the tree stand to get up rabbit 2, which ran up the left edge and to ground in the left hand tree patch. After running another quickly in, they found the last one in the left field border, chasing it down the lane to the end and left through the lower cover, along the upper side and back into the ravine and to ground to end the day. It was great to see big running rabbits again. The tailgate tea with lots of hot soup was most welcome. Saturday at kennels we had an action-filled hunt. Hounds worked the upper hedge line and forced a rabbit out to the top woods, then they hunted across to the tenant house and down to the creek, where they ran a second almost to the road. It doubled back to the carriage shed to ground. Yarrow had crossed over the left field, so I picked up the rest and took them in. She came back to horn to end the morning. Saturday, complete with flurries, we walked all at kennels, working on control of the puppies, which snow and ice has made slower than usual this winter. Sunday March 29th, our **Closing Meet at Marsh Creek**, was a good hunt. Hounds drew around the oval, then after drawing the center



*Closing Meet—some of the Field....*



*Driving the last rabbit from the bales to ground...*



*....and Alyssa Peebles at the tea.*

hedgerow we worked toward the big northern woods covert where they found a good running rabbit. They ran it through the woods down to the cut where it made it across the road into a yard. They worked the roadside hedgerow down to the entrance where they got up the second rabbit in the briars and big stacks of hay. It broke out and ran out south along the oval hedge line where they marked it in heavy branch piles and briar tangles. We ended the day with a draw back around the oval and took hounds back to kennels for a cleanup of burdock and mud, and headed for the Peebles' tea afterward. With plenty of hot tea and soup as well as goodies, it was a fine ending to our 67th season here in Chester County. What a wicked winter!

We began working on tuning up the pack for the spring Basset Pack Trials after the closing meet. April the 4th at kennels a 3 couple hunt of the upper property yielded two good rabbits—one to ground in the upper woods and one that Sousa got up among the hay rolls near the carriage shed that they drove along the stream, across to the upper hedgerow and through to ground in the center covert. At Marsh Creek on the 8th hounds' first rabbit crossed the road, but they got up another for a good hunt around the oval and to ground at the trail head corner, then after a blank out to the far hedgerow they flushed the third out for a run from the point hedgerow back into the oval and a double to ground. Sunday the 12th at Jefferis's we had a fine morning with a 4 couple—rabbit one at the start got quickly to ground in the tree plantings,



then another was forced out for a doubling run to a mark in the center woods gulley. They then worked the hillside woods below the house and kennels and ran the third rabbit up to the top and back and to ground in a log pile near the edge of the back field. Souza and Salsa were stellar.

At Aldie, the ticks were everywhere, and we were glad that hounds got a treatment of Advantix II on Wednesday. Phyllis Allen, Lisa Booth, Gene Bolt and Jonathan Schau did a great job. We were pleased with the thorough way the pack worked after missing so much hunting this past winter. The three couple on Friday April 17 with Lisa and Jonathan whipping in was a good one. Hounds found in the woods on the right side of the enclosure, and Jonathan tallyhoed it out crossing the upper trail. They ran it left through several cover strips to a possible mark, then worked down to the center and back as the temperature rose. Lisa tallyhoed our second rabbit crossing from one strip to a dense cover patch. Hounds worked it to a loss there. We worked across down into the woods again and back toward the entry gate as our time ran out.



*Presenting The Three Couple.*



*Hounds working a check.*



*Presenting the Five Couple.*

Saturday in the five couple it was so hot the horses had to be sent back and the judges were on foot. With Gene and Phyllis whipping in, hounds worked really hard in the heat with little scent, and got two up for short runs to losses in cover patches in the field next to the Merry Meadow. Then Souza found in cover above the hillside and the pack joined in as they worked in cry with a couple of checks down east of the Sharp clearcut to the tenant house pond to a possible mark. Unfortunately we were missing Gallion at that point, and could not recover him as time ran out. We took the pack in and I went back to the pond where he quickly came in to horn, then went for a swim in the pond before I got him out, the rascal! James Overstreet helped with feeding and kennel cleanup and Marsha Scharnberg got some good photos of the action. Though we were out of the ribbons, all in all it was a very good trip.

Our 67th season went well despite the unrelenting cold and storms January through March. Even with the strange weather cycle, we had to cancel only four Sunday meets. We can all be very proud of our hounds and staff that gave such fine sport through this tough season. **We owe a special thank you to George Jefferis and to Rev. Edmund Sherrill, Head of Church Farm School, and Marsh Creek Park, 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/exercise times and locations through the summer.

***We owe our sport to our wonderful Landowners.***



## Harold Hallman

I first met Harold in 1968 when friends took us to a hunt one weekend with Elizabeth Streeter's Skycastle Bassets and we stopped in the store to get directions to the farm where the pack was meeting that Sunday in October long ago. He quickly put us on the right track. When I took over the pack nineteen years later, Harold and his son gave us a free hand to hunt their farm and train hounds there year round. We have enjoyed his hospitality and the privilege of using the ground very much. He has been a super landowner for Skycastle and a good friend indeed. Whether picking up the Sunday New York Times or a snack on the way home from a hunt, a visit with Harold has been part of my week ever since moving out here from Radnor in 1989. I will miss him very much indeed.

The text of his obituary is attached.

Harold M. Hallman Jr., age 79, husband of Cynthia (Brown) Hallman, of Chester Springs, PA, passed away early Tuesday, May 19, 2015 in the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center. Born in Phoenixville, he was a son of the late Harold M. Sr. and Hannah (Fetters) Hallman. Harold graduated from Downingtown High School and Pierce College. He served in the National Guard. Mr. Hallman was the store keeper of Hallman's General Store in Chester Springs. He was a member of the Spring City Forest #34 Tall Cedars of Lebanon and the Mt. Pickering Lodge 446 F&AM. He was the Auditor for West Pikeland Township for many years, and was an avid Phillies and Downingtown sports fan. In addition to his wife, Mr. Hallman is survived by two children, Elizabeth (Hallman) Madarang, wife of Cesar Madarang of Chester Springs and Harold M. Hallman III of Chester Springs; and two grandchildren, Joshua and Hannah Madarang.



# Annual Meeting at Vixen Hill Farm, May 17



Walt Stewart receives Colors



Phil Heth receives Colors



Phyllis Allen receives the Eliot Kalmbach Award



Cecilia and Rosemary got Rabbit Buckets for their Tea Committee labors!



Jonathan Wiedorn, David Harshaw and Dick Gross with the Veterans



George Barth and Gene Bolt marking the placements



Yvette, Best Entered Hound, wins the Killen Cup for Best in Show for the second year, Osprey (Best Retired) Reserve



Winners: Larry Best Veteran, Yvette Best In Show, Yuengling Best Doghound



# The Bryn Mawr Hound Show

We had a ball at the annual Bryn Mawr Hound Show on Saturday, May 30th. It was a fine day for Skycastle. We placed or won in half of the classes.

Gallion was Third in the Stallion Hound Class. Gallion with Yvette and Yarrow won the Stallion with Get Class. Yuengling and Gallion won the Couple of Dogs Class. Yvette was Fourth in the Entered Bitch Class. Souza was Fourth in the Brood Bitch Class. Souza with Yvette and Yarrow won and Tuppence with Zelda and Ziva was Third in the Brood with Produce Class. Salsa and Souza were Fourth in the Couple of Bitches Class. Larry was Second Doghound and Salsa was Third Bitch in the Veteran's class. James was Second in a large Junior Handler Class. I won the Amateur Horn Blowing Contest on Friday evening. Gene, David, Lisa, Laura, James and Phyllis all were a great help getting ready, showing and getting hounds back and forth to the classes. And the party afterward at the Ganskys' was grand.

Gary Sturts was our official photographer for the Basset division at the show this year, and did a great job!



*Gallion 1st Stallion with Get  
Yarrow and Yvette*



*Gallion and Yuengling 1st Couple  
of Doghounds*



*James was Second Place  
Junior Handler with Yeoman*



*Souza won the Calf Pasture Bowl as 1st Brood  
with Produce Yarrow and Yvette*



*Tuppence 3rd Brood with Produce  
Zelda and Ziva*



*We won the 2 Couples of Hounds Class*



## MEETS AND TEAS

**January 4 – Marsh Creek State Park – Tea at Susan Butler's** - Very warm, wet & muddy but a successful hunt at Marsh Creek. Afterwards Susan Butler & Jim LeRoux hosted a fabulous tea at Susan's home with a delicious chicken/wild rice soup, very good ham with rolls, yummy deviled eggs, cheese, chocolate cake, cookies & two of Gene's delicious pies! The Christmas decorations were still up & we all had a wonderful time at Susan's lovely home!

**January 11 – Mr. & Mrs. William Dougherty's** – Who knew that 34F would feel so balmy? Or maybe it was the climbing in boots, long johns, & other extra layers, that made us forget the cold. In any case, the Field didn't complain, & just seemed happy to bust out of sub-freezing mode. The Master decided on a 3-couple, a wise decision in light of all the tracks in the snow: deer, fox, rabbit, weasel. We saw one little bunny, & that just briefly. The Tea Committee's concern was whether we'd freeze The Field to death during an outdoor tea. Happy us! Nonnie & Bob, who live next door, offered the use of their party barn, so we toasted our skins on the (figurative) beaches of Deauville & Cannes as we enjoyed 2 soups, cookies, pies & those little hot dog in roll thingys. And, as I was pulling away at the day's end, out of the trees loped a big, beautiful, fluffy, healthy fox, so red against the snow, who followed me all the way to 401. I turned left & he turned into the woods looking for dinner!



**January 18 – Mr. & Mrs. Sam Matthew's Milky Way Farm & Hunt Breakfast** – Mother Nature had other plans for us today. A freak rain/sleet/ice "event" had us encased in ice in the pouring rain (some of you may have seen reports of the 50+ car pile up on the Schuylkill Expressway

& heard that every major highway, 95, the Turnpike, 202, etc. in & out of the area was shut down). The Master & the party wagon made it to the hunt, never unpacked, & returned to kennels without incident. Phew! The phone chain, & common sense – reached folks with the message that the hunt was canceled but the Hunt Breakfast would proceed as planned. Thank you, Riverstone, for treating us.

**January 25 – White Acres Farm & Gentlemen's Tea** – The hunt became a walk because of all the snow & it was great to enjoy a wonderful tea with the Whitakers in their lovely home with its great walk-in fireplace. The gentlemen's tea was awesome with wonderful pies & quiche by Gene, Scotch Eggs by Jonathan, sausage rolls, deviled eggs, cheese & crackers & a great chocolate cake! Many thanks to the Whitakers & to the Gentlemen for such a delicious tea!

**February 1 – Stonewall Golf Club – Tea given by Valerie McCormick & Dolores Green** – The hunt became a walk when things got too difficult with deer & snow. The tea was fabulous with Hungarian Goulash, Split Pea Soup, Vegetable Soup, a wonderful rum cake & lots of great cookies, brownies, cheese & crackers. It was inside which was lovely & warm & we all had a great time!

**February 8 – Allerton Farm Gate & Tea at Lydia Willitts Bartholomew's Lucky Hill Farm** – Hunting at Allerton Farm went well & the hounds ignored a herd of deer that passed by. After the hunt, Lydia Willitts Bartholomew hosted a fabulous tea at her lovely home with lovely hot chili, great sandwiches, pies, & lots of great cakes & cookies (Gene even made groundhog shaped cookies). Lydia treated us all to a raffle for a seat at the Devon Horse Show & Gene was the lucky winner! Everyone enjoyed the good company & fabulous tea.

**February 15 – Church Farm School** – Meet cancelled because of weather conditions.

**February 22 – Mr. & Mrs. George Jefferis's** – Da Tea Committee is da Bombe! Mother Nature wouldn't let us hunt – again- but stalwart souls helped the Master chip ice out of the runs, romp in the snow with hounds & generally spruce up the kennels. 41F felt like a day at the beach so the Tea Committee opted to have the day-late birthday tea



outdoors. Sun! Chocolate! Cheery old people! Felicitations & slices of Bombe to Sally, Dolores & The Master!

**March 1 - Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Christiansen's Hearthstone Farm** – More snow! Henry James said the two most beautiful words in the English language were “sunny afternoon”. To the intrepid staff the two least beautiful must be “wintry mix”, snow, sleet rain - & the temp. in the 20's all day made it comfy for staff & the hounds they cared for. Squash soup & hot tea brought them back to life. Thanks to both!

**March 8 - The Moore's Great Marsh Farm - & Tea hosted by Phil & Rosemary Heth** – Light at the end of the thermometer! Sunny, high 40's, & Spring on the breeze (even though it swept across fields of snow & it wasn't as warm as it might have been) let a cabin-fever-raddled Field know that Mud Season isn't far away. Hooray for Muck boots! Hooray for light weight vests! Even the possum seemed happy with the weather – with the hounds- not so much. He tried to look as dead as possible while sitting up with his eyes open, & it worked! The hounds showed no interest. Which was good, as it was another walk-not-hunt day, deep snow (& no tracks of any kid) precluded a chase. But nothing denied us our tea. “Just something simple” said Rosemary. Soup, salmon, pies, cakes, eggy things, warmed us after our walk, as we dined beneath the palm trees & the sandy beach left over from last night's party (to which we weren't invited, but that's OK, we were at the ballet). Our thanks to Rosemary & Phil for a fabulous tea & to Mother Nature for a fabulous day. We apologize for all the rude things we said about her in February.

**March 15 – Mr. Richard Weber's Twin Ridges Farm & Tea hosted by Dr. & Mrs. Donald Rosato at St. Matthews Place** – “March brings breezes loud & shrill....” But we stay warm & slog uphill.... Yeah, yeah, yeah I hear you! Scarves, camo snowsuits, balaclavas were the preferred form of dress. Muck boots & walking sticks were de rigeur but a Field desperate to be outdoors (& the hounds they love) didn't care. Sloppy tracking, patchy ice oozing into mud, wind-blown scent, made no difference to us or the hounds ....or the 3 or 4 (the Master was unsure & the Field had no views) rabbits that circled through cover. According to reports (i.e. the Master said) the first rabbit appeared in hot pursuit of a fox. Hounds ignored the fox & got down to business with the rabbit. That they even paid attention to the next

few bunnies was amazing to the Field, as the entire area was carpeted with deer poop, a particular delicacy to the pbgv palate. Gorging ensued. We finished a little early because the Social Event of the Season awaited: Tea at the Rosatos! We had a large field, & we were joined by more tea hounds for Judy & Don's fabulous spread, which also included a birthday cake for James. Gorging ensued! Thanks to all who made it a breathtaking day in the field, & thanks to our hosts for a perfect end to the day!

**March 22 – Mr. & Mrs. George Jefferis's** – Hounds had a grand time regardless of windy scenting conditions with 2 wonderful runs to mark. Three of the “Y”s – Yuengling, Yarrow & Yvette – were out & yet all hell was kept contained, The Master was stunned. An earlier post from a friend describes .... “One of those March days when the sun shines hot & the wind blows cold....” & that was today. But the 15 or so hardy souls dodging the holes, skeletons & other odd but interesting debris that make up Dogpatch, & to the hounds it was nirvana. The B.Y.O. tea was more than splendid: two soups, hot apple toddy, sandwiches, cookies & deviled eggs, of which there can never be too many! Thanks to all who made it a lovely day!

**March 29 – Marsh Creek State Park & Tea following at Mr. Chris Peeples' Vixen Hill Farm** - Hounds hunted at Marsh Creek where three large rabbits ripped through hedgerows & gave us great sport. Then off to the Peeples for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tea to End The Season. The cucumber sandwiches were particularly delicious this year, the tea set was particularly shiny & the tea, a proprietary Peeples recipe, set a new standard. And, Rosemary's rum cake. Our thanks to Chris, Allysa, Hilary, Suzanne & Charles for welcoming us again. Our thanks, too, to all who made it a wonderful season: our generous landowners, our gracious hosts & hostesses, our hard-working staff, & last but not least, the creatures, hounds & rabbits who define our sport.