

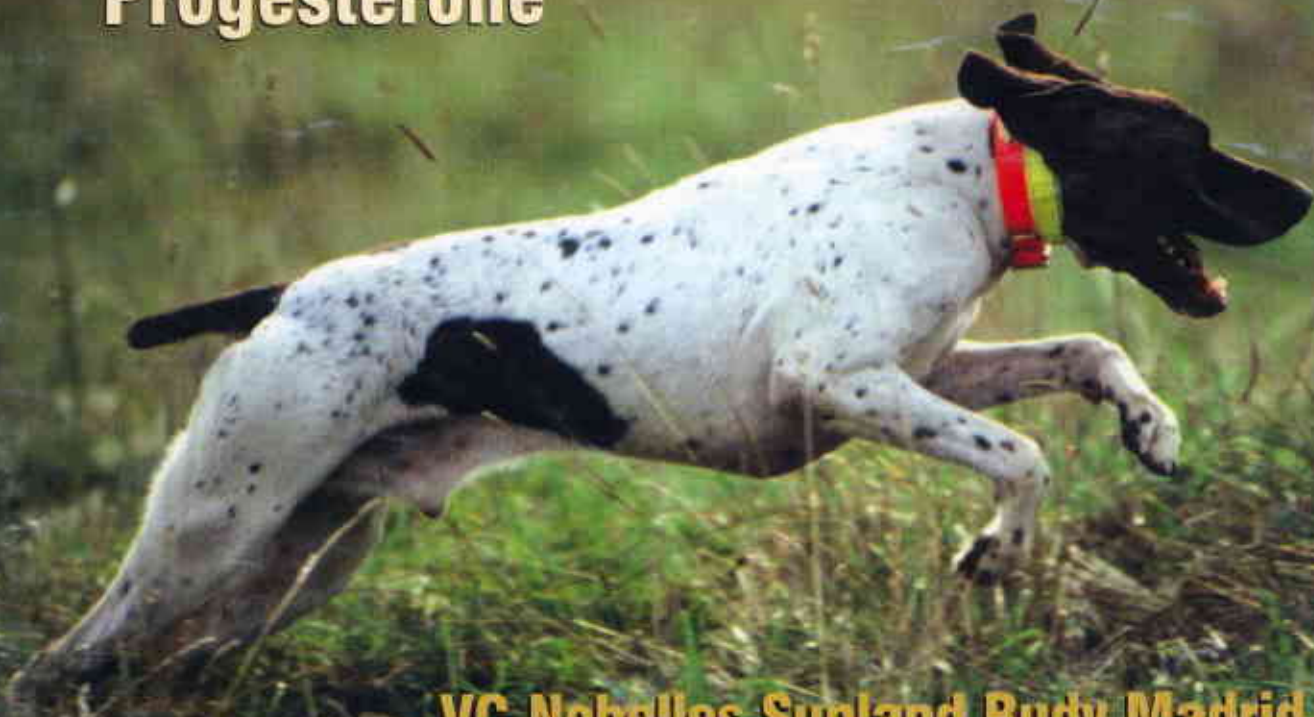
VERSATILE HUNTING DOG

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Bryan's Song

**Serum
Progesterone**

**necessary
use of
"Force"**



VC Nobelles Sunland Budy Madrid
German Shorthaired Pointer

The Art of Utility Training



Bryan's Song

When someone mentions the '50s or '60s, most are reminded of the introduction of Elvis,

The Beatles, or possibly a specific automobile body style that has retained popularity to our present year. Each decade seems to have a special significance that is personal and individualized. Of the decades of time in my life, the '90s will always bring to mind the loss of two of the best friends I have ever known. First, I lost my father to a wood cutting accident, and then said goodbye to my dearest hunting companion, Cedarwoods Dusty Rose. Dusty died of gastric dilation-volvulus, more commonly known as bloat; she was eight years old. Inscribed on both Dusty's and my father's tombstones is the quote, "Once in a while the footsteps of someone special cross your path and your life is never the same again." My dad's last bird was shot over Dusty when he was 75, on a pheasant hunt one late December day in Idaho. I'll always remember them both for what they gave to me and hope they are again joined together at one of heaven's special coverts chasing birds as each so loved to do.

A glance in the mirror

There's a genetic likeness to my dad that I often see at a glance in a mirror or when passing a shaded window. That image would always remind me of how often others have expressed the likeness that I had to my father; both in looks, our smile, and the way we walked. With Dusty, however, I had never seen one of her pups showing a genetic phenotype to her appearance or her intensity on birds. Her intensity was passionate as she snapped into her frozen statue-like profile as none I'd ever witnessed or produced at my Cedarwood Kennel. I never kept any of her progeny so I had no memories of her to see in a pup performing her classic pointing pose. Often, I am reminded of a pup's sire or dam when in the field just as I am my father when that quick glance in a mirror takes me back to my dad's past.

Dusty's genetic likeness did surface, however, one March day on a NAVHDA judging assignment in Florida. It was in a seven-year-old male Pudelpointer that was unmistakably the mirror image of my old Dusty Rose. Even more amazing was that the dog's call name was also "Dusty," obviously proudly given to this male as a pup after his mother. Dusty had a founded reputation back in her day, as she was both a NAVHDA Natural Ability and Utility Prize I performer, and had passed her Utility Test prior to her first birthday. A friend and fellow Judge, Pat Saunders from Jacksonville, Florida was handling the male, Cedarwoods Lasting Impression (aka Dusty), at the Utility level. I knew from first sight I didn't need to examine the pedigree to learn of this dog's lineage; the genetic portrait was as vivid as past glances in that mirror.

I had previously sold Pat two Pudelpointers. One, a male, was now 13 and the other a two-year-old female. So where did this seven-year-old male come from, I wondered? I would discover later that Pat had purchased his Dusty from an Internet ad placed by Scott Winebrenner from

Wisconsin. Sure enough, my memory was reminding me of selling Scott a pup some years back. I could still vividly remember some of the "dog talk" conversations I had with Scott some seven years ago, both prior to and after he purchased the pup. He wanted a top upland and waterfowl performer and had thoroughly studied my breeding stock's pedigrees and NAVHDA test scores. He was also involved in the VDD testing system with several Drathaars. He had settled on a pup from Dusty Rose. Since no dog of her breed had the performance record she had established in tests at that date, he felt his odds were the best in a pup from Dusty Rose.

My curiosity was overwhelming; why had Scott sold this dog? It couldn't have been for profit as he had only asked for the dog's original puppy price. I later found he had too many dogs at home and was forced to reduce his canine inventory.

"Take special care..."

At the conclusion of the NAVHDA test, and after watching Pat and Dusty complete their Utility Test with a convincing 185 points, I was compelled to learn more of Pat's acquisition of this dog. Pat assured me that the dog was a natural and had required little training to give the performance I'd witnessed. Pat then filled me in on the details of the dog's purchase and shared his disappointment after discovering several notes hidden under the rug in the shipping crate Dusty had arrived in. The notes were from Scott's nine-year-old son Bryan, and written, as only a young boy would express when saying "goodbye" to the friend he had spent the past seven years growing up with.

Dusty had come into Bryan's life when he was two years old and the history of their bond was evident in the notes; asking the new owner of Dusty to "take special care of the dog he loved so much." Initially, Pat was infuriated when finding he had purchased a dog that had been sold without the emotional approval of a young boy. As time elapsed, it became obvious to Pat that his new hunting companion had a special personality and display of affection that a young boy would naturally have bonded to.

The guilt of Pat's purchase created Christmas, birthday, and special occasion cards to Bryan, complete with pictures of Dusty's hunting excursions, how well Dusty was doing and all the destinations for their adventures. Pat is Florida's State Ducks Unlimited Chairman and an avid waterfowler; this passion has brought about waterfowl excursions from Florida to Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Alaska with regular trips to Louisiana and Arkansas. The life of Cedarwoods Lasting Impression is one that all versatile dogs long for, specially planned hunting trips and daily lounging in the home with two other companions with their own couch for comfort.

A generous request

Observing the likeness this male had to his mother, and my longing to bring those genetics back into my kennel's gene pool is what started the



Cedarwoods Lasting Impression, aka "Dusty"

theme this story is all about. Pat owned a young female, Cedarwoods Waterwing, who had been Natural Ability and Utility tested and had received good results in hip radiographs. A breeding formula between her and his male Dusty looked likely to produce the result I was hoping to create. When I proposed my interest in this breeding, to my delight, Pat was completely agreeable. His only request was that I market and find appropriate homes for each of his pups. He offered to split this litter with me if I was willing to take over all the duties of registration, sales, and awarding any guarantees necessary to future owners. With that, I could get the pup I wanted from my half of the litter. His next request solidified what I already knew of Pat Saunders' generosity and how kind was the heart inside of this crusty, burly waterfowler from Florida. His request was to give his share of the litter to Bryan in the form of a college educational fund. This sincere gesture choked me up for several minutes with the need to turn away and catch my breath. At this point, I suggested the profits from the entire litter go toward the education fund. You see, compounding Bryan's loss of his childhood friend Dusty, he has also since lost his 41-year-old mother to medical complications from both respiratory and heart disease. Nothing will ever replace the loss of Bryan's mother, but Pat's kindness and sincere generosity will make a positive difference in his life; letting a young boy know he has a special friend down south in Florida sharing with him the love of a Pudelpointer named Dusty. In our language of "human speech" mere words cannot express the loss a young boy deals with when life hands him a journey such as Bryan was given. But the humanity and kindness Pat has displayed will make a difference in this youngster's future.

Well, Pat followed through and raised a wonderful litter of pups from his two dogs. He and the pups flew from Jacksonville, Florida to Boise, Idaho when the pups were six weeks old. He stayed with me for a week,

mothering each of his pups and requiring near-perfect resumes for each of the pup's new homes. I also found a special little female that reminded me of her grandmother, Cedarwoods Dusty Rose, and appropriately named her Cedarwoods Your Bryan's Song from the story of Brian Piccolo and Gayle Sayers, but essentially Pat's new friend, Bryan Winebrenner. My sorrowful memories of a young boy losing his mother and a salty old waterfowler's generous heart will always be remembered in this new pup's registered name, but for short I just call her "Sage."

In our sometimes selfish world of puppy mills, pets sold in malls, and so many exploiting their dogs merely for financial gain, it does my heart good to know there are still those that take the opportunity to make unselfish decisions and do something special for both their own hearts and especially one of a young person's. This text celebrates that generosity and will, I hope, help its readers to know just a little about my friend and your NAVHDA Judge, Pat Saunders.



The very special litter of pups