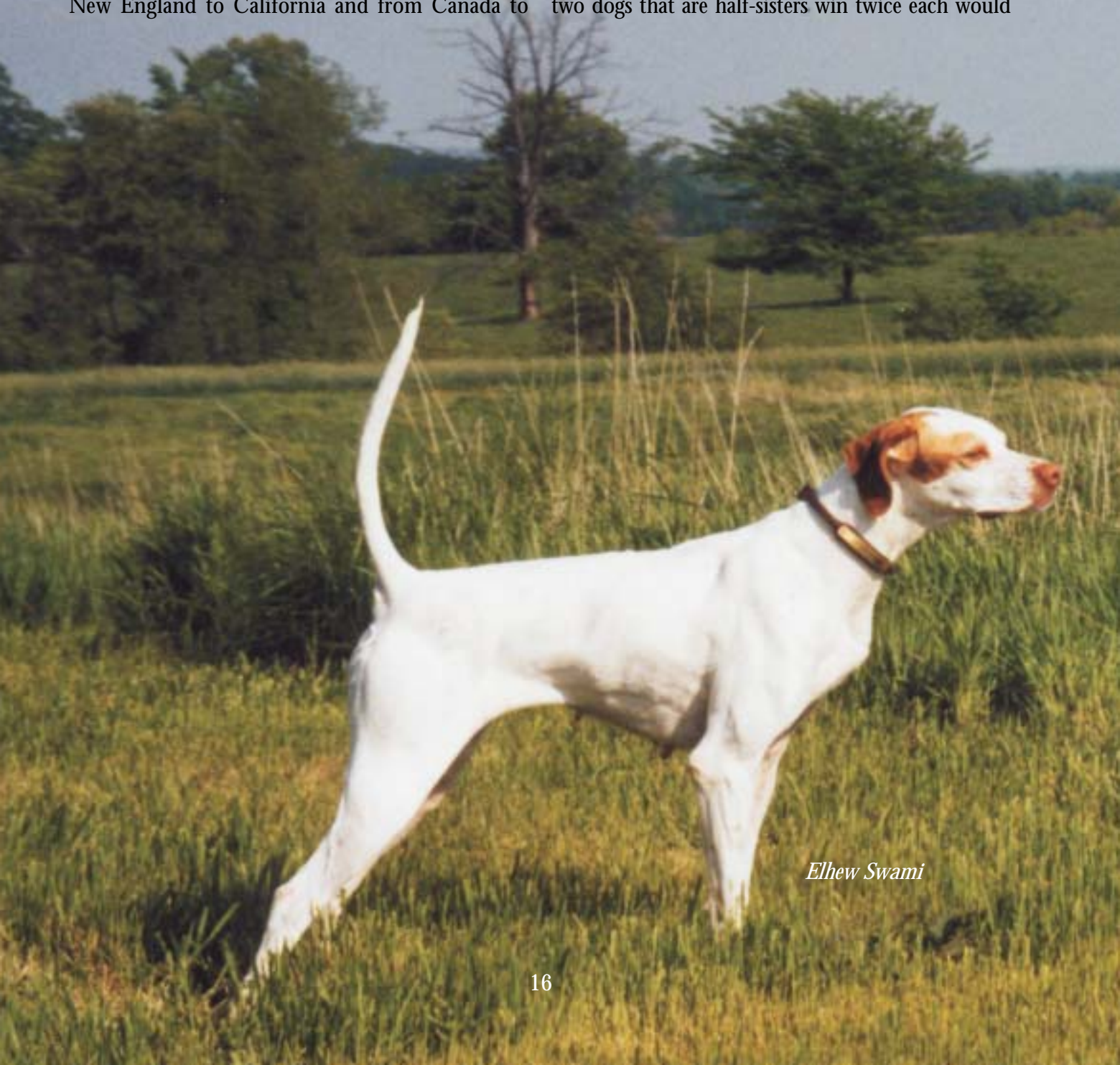


Top Shooting Dogs

By Craig Doherty

Of the handful of national awards available to bird dogs, winning the Top Shooting Dog Award may be one of the most challenging. Seventy-three stakes are included in the award for the 2004 – 2005 season and they span the North American continent from New England to California and from Canada to

Mexico. To be named the Top Shooting Dog is a feat that all shooting dog owners strive for. To win it once is often the exclamation point on a great career. A dog that wins it twice makes even the most hardened skeptic sit up and pay attention. To have two dogs that are half-sisters win twice each would



Elhew Swami

be beyond the imagination of most. If it hadn't happened to Elhew Sunflower (winner 2000 – 2001 and 2001 – 2002) and her half-sister Elhew Swami (winner 2002 – 2003 and 2003 – 2004) many would have said it couldn't be done.

To rise to such lofty heights is a team effort that includes trainer/handler Shawn Kinklaar and the owners and breeders of these two remarkable dogs. Bryce Flaming and Rob Butler co-own Sunflower while the two share ownership of Swami with Stan

Howton. One factor that may be overlooked by many who admire these two dogs is their dam – Hanna's Elhew Lou. She may be the epitome of a "blue hen." Of the six dogs in the first two generations of her pedigree there are a total of 11 field trial placements and eight of those were by her grandsire, Stratoline. However, on the bottom Lou goes back to such greats as Evolution, Builder's Addition, Addition's Go Boy, and Nel's Rambling On. Lou's top side is out of the heart of Elhew



Elhew Sunflower

Elhew Sunflower

FDSB #1466488

whelped: May 4, 1996

Hook's Bounty Hunter

Elhew Snakefoot

Elhew Strike

Elhew Gimli

Elhew Brass

Elhew Yellow Rail

Elhew Raindrop

Elhew Nicker's Mike

Hannah's Elhew Lou

Baize's Elhew Knickabee

Elhew Hibiscus

Stratoline

T K's Roxana

T K's Suzy

Elhew Sunflower Wins

11 Open Shooting Dog Championships (a shooting dog record)

4 OSD Runner-up Championships

6 First Place OSD Classics

1st Southern Classic

CH Midwest Shooting Dog Championship

RU Jayhawk Shooting Dog Championship

CH Sunflower Shooting Dog Championship

RU Ozark Shooting Dog Championship

CH Gulf Coast Shooting Dog Championship

1st Oliver DeLuca Classic

CH Canadian Championship

RU Southwest Missouri Championship

1st Hall of Fame Classic

1st Oliver DeLuca Championship

CH Michigan Shooting Dog Championship

RU All American Prairie Chicken Championship

CH Tennessee Shooting Dog Championship

Ozark Shooting Dog Championship

1st Hall of Fame Classic

CH Indiana Shooting Dog Championship

CH Missouri Shooting Dog Championship

CH Egyptian Shooting Dog Championship

CH Indiana Shooting Dog Championship

1st Oliver DeLuca Classic

s-99

s-99

f-00

f-00

f-00

f-00

s-01

s-01

s-01

f-01

s-02

s-02

s-02

f-02

f-02

f-02

f-02

s-03

s-03

s-04

s-04

s-04



Above: Sunflower receiving the Royal Canin Open Shooting Dog of the Year award.

Right: Swami after winning the U.S. Shooting Dog Invitational



Shotgun Wildflower: Erin's Southern Justice X Elhew Sunflower

Kennels.

When you look at the topside of Sunflower, most will immediately recognize her sire, Elhew Snakefoot. Snakefoot was in the top three in the Hall of Fame voting this year and his short competitive career was highlighted by winning the National Shooting Dog Championship in December 1994 followed by a win

at the Masters in March 1995. Snakefoot preceded his daughter by winning the Top Shooting Dog Award for the 1994 – 1995 season. When it came time to breed Lou again, Flaming turned once again to Elhew Kennels for a sire. This time they chose Snakefoot's son, Elhew Jefferson. Although not campaigned, Jefferson is apparently passing on the genes that create

Elhew Swami

FDSB #1500966
 whelped: July 3, 1998
 Elhew Jefferson

Hannah's Elhew Lou

Elhew Snakefoot	Elhew Strike
	Elhew Yellow Rail
Elhew Jube	Elhew Sea Wolf
	Elhew Jubilee
Baize's Elhew Knickabee	Elhew Nicker's Mike
	Elhew Hibiscus
T K's Roxana	Stratoline
	T K's Suzy



Elhew Swami Wins

6 Shooting Dog Championships
 7 OSD Runner-up Championships
 2 First Place Classic wins

- RU Midwest Shooting Dog Championship s-00
- RU Tennessee Shooting Dog Championship f-01
- CH Mississippi Shooting Dog Championship f-01
- RU Kentucky Shooting Dog Championship f-02
- RU Ozark Shooting Dog Championship f-02
- CH Gulf Coast Shooting Dog Championship s-03
- CH U.S. Shooting Dog Invitational Champ. s-03
- RU Masters Shooting Dog Championship s-03
- RU Midwest Shooting Dog Championship s-03
- 1st Oliver DeLuca Classic s-03
- CH SW Missouri Shooting Dog Championship f-03
- CH Georgia Shooting Dog Championship s-04
- RU North Carolina Shooting Dog Championship s-04
- 1st Hall of Fame Classic s-04
- CH U.S. Shooting Dog Invitational Champ. s-04



Elhew Sunshine: Elhew Explorer X Elhew Sunflower

Elhew Hit Man: Elhew Explorer X Elhew Sunflower

winners like Elhew Swami.

For many, winning the Top Shooting Dog Award four years in a row would be enough, but like baseball's Yankees or basketball's Lakers, winning is addictive and the team behind Elhew Sunflower and Elhew Swami have their sights set on staying on top. Sunflower has been bred three times, twice to Erin's

Southern Justice and once to Elhew Explorer. Swami had her first litter five months ago. She was bred to Island Grove Brute. From the looks of some of the pictures, there are some excellent prospects coming along that might be able to fill their mothers' shoes in the future.