

This 'N That

By The Editors

SPORTING CLASSICS NEWEST FUN 'N GUN READER SWEEPSTAKES

Last year's grand prize winner in *Sporting Classics'* Fun 'N Gun Reader Sweepstakes enjoyed an unforgettable hunt at Greystone Castle in November (see Behind the Lens, page 104). Clay Chandler brought his new Benelli Legacy 28 for three exciting days of gunning quail. But what made his hunt even more special was that it was filmed for a *Benelli on Assignment* TV show. And between the bird hunting and filming, Chandler managed to kill two trophy whitetails.

So what's in store for the winners in this year's Reader Sweepstakes?

Once again our Grand Prize will include both a fine shotgun and an all-expense-paid trip to one of the country's top wingshooting destinations. The winner will tote a new Beretta A400 Explor Light semi-auto on the vast pheasant fields at Cheyenne Ridge Signature Lodge in western South Dakota.

Our First Prize is equally impressive: a Winchester Model 70 Featherweight outfitted with Swarovski's new one-inch Z3 3-9x36 scope.

There will be two Second Prize winners of Swarovski Tyrol Pocket Binoculars and three lucky readers will each receive a Boyt 30-inch duffel as our Third Prize.

To enter the Sweepstakes, all you have to do is purchase a gift subscription or renew your existing subscription at the special price of only \$19.95. Call now: (800) 849-1004 or send in the entry form on page 3.

SAVING SOUTH CAROLINA'S RARE HUNTING HORSES

A crowd of nearly 10,000 turned out on Hilton Head Island February 27 for the third annual Marsh Tacky Beach Run. Honors went to Brittany Bowen riding her 22-year-old mare Molly to victory over a field of 22 competitors.

The diminutive Tackies, descended from lost horses of the Spanish conquistadores, were once common in the state's Lowcountry as mounts and draft animals until Henry Ford and John Deere put an end to their usefulness. Though prized by plantation owners for quail, deer and hog hunting, by the 1990s Tacky numbers had shrunk to less than 150.

In 2007, after DNA analysis conclusively proved their Spanish ancestry, The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy helped Tacky owners form an association, registry and studbook. In 2010 the Marsh Tacky was recognized by the South Carolina Legislature as the State Heritage Horse. Today, their numbers have doubled with the ultimate goal of 1,000 animals to assure the breed's survival. For more information visit www.marsh tacky.org. — Roger Pinckney

NSSF CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF PROMOTING SHOOTING SPORTS

Fifty years of being married would put a couple in the twilight of a marvelous run, and a 50-year birthday is a milestone that places someone well into middle age with "Senior" status on the not-so-distant

horizon. For the National Shooting Sports Foundation, however, its 50th anniversary seems to be coming in the prime of its existence.

Thirty charter members helped launch the organization in 1961, a year after the first National Conference on the Shooting Sports. The NSSF now boasts a membership of more than 6,000.

The vision of industry luminaries such as *Field & Stream's* Warren Page, Winchester's John Olin and Bill Ruger may not have been able to predict the many accomplishments that the NSSF would achieve in its first 50 years, but they did recognize the need to form an organization that could respond to a growing number of challenges that were troubling hunters, shooters and the industry itself.

An early mission statement was "to create a better public understanding of, and a more active participation in, the shooting sports." Today, that mission has been reworded "to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports."

To achieve these goals, the NSSF has played an active role in creating and supporting hunting and shooting opportunities while serving as a watchdog for the interests of the industry that plays such an important part in our sporting heritage.

Programs such as the Hunting Heritage Partnership Grants have helped state and regional wildlife management agencies increase access and opportunities for hunters. Similarly, its Range Partnership Grant Program has helped shooting