



August 19, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEW HORSE BARN DONATED AT PYRAMID STATE PARK,
PINCKNEYVILLE, IL.**

On Sunday afternoon August 19, 2012, two groups celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony for an all new horse barn on the Captain Unit of the Pyramid State Park. Through a “donor agreement” between THE FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF ILLINOIS INC. and the ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, this new facility will house up to 36 horses and will serve as a staging area for both bird dog field trials and other equestrian oriented activities. Using focused fund raising programs the officers and the board of directors of the FTCTI raised monies to fund the structure and construction of this barn at a predetermined site on the Pyramid park lands. The IDNR completed necessary impact analysis and site preparation prior to the construction phase.

IDNR Director Marc Miller along with site manager Cha Hill joined Field Trial Clubs of Illinois members and several FTCTI officers and directors for the gathering. Several local businesses and the Friends of Pyramid group were also on hand in recognition of the additional commerce that will come from the people who will now visit the area.

“The Pyramid Field Trial site with the addition of a horse barn and shelter from the elements is an extremely attractive venue to run our dogs. We also would like to recognize the Friends of Pyramid Group whose cooperation and financial contribution has provided the running of water lines to both the barn and the Denmark staging area , We thank IDNR Director Miller and the FTCTI President Mark Johnson and his officers and directors for their leadership in seeing that this barn project took place, ” said Master of Ceremonies Ed Graves of Friedheim, MO. Director Miller has noted that this type of public – private partnerships are the kind of thing his agency views as progressive and positive for all.

This donor's agreement covers the construction of two (2) barns by the FTCI: the first of which was dedicated in ceremonies on July 14th and named after pointer field trialer Pat Sheehan of Jacksonville, IL. Sheehan spearheaded the fund raising for the two facilities. The Sheehan Barn is located at Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area near Chandlerville and Ashland, IL. .

"We are excited about the additional interest in the sport of bird dog field trialing these two new barns will stimulate and have great appreciation for the level of cooperation and collaboration the IDNR and Director Miller's office has extended to us" said Graves.

Joining Director Miller and FTCI Directors in the ribbon cutting ceremony was veteran Brittany field trialer Ray Trimble of Carterville, IL, for whom the barn will be named. Trimble, representing FTCI, worked with IDNR on the original management plan for the land after it was purchased by the State and helped to lay out the field trial courses as well as working with other field trialers to help with the construction of the barn. Trimble has been involved in the sport since the mid-1950's and is still active today on the field trial circuit. He is a recipient of the AKC Lifetime Achievement Award for Performance Events, a member of the American Brittany Club Hall of Fame and the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame, and has been recognized by FTCI with the Senior Service Award. Trimble expressed his gratitude to FTCI for the honor and indicated that the sport of field trialing, working with good bird dogs and riding horses, is part of what has kept him young with a purpose and enthusiasm for life.

The Field Trial Clubs of Illinois is a not for profit organization chartered in the state of Illinois. They represent 41 separate sporting dog organizations in the State of Illinois and will celebrate 50 years in existence next year. Over the years the organization has contributed thousands of dollars for site improvements at various State Fish and Wildlife Areas. Field Trialing in Illinois is very popular, has a rich heritage and generates hundreds of thousands of dollars of revenue annually for supporting businesses and industry.

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Group: Mike Bland, Pyramid IDNR Staff; Nick Dolce Reg. V Land Manager; Cha Hill Pyramid Site Superintendent; Field Trialer Jeremiah Seiber, Master of Ceremonies Ed Graves;



Pyramid Barn looking East