

FLUSHERS



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Name: Name: Chuck Sward (pictured above, on the left with Dixie and John Turnquist)

Family members: Dana (wife and hunting partner), Toni (daughter) and Jerry (son)

State of residence: Minnesota

Dog's names: Dixie (8) and Ellie (18 months)

Breed: British Labrador Retriever (both are yellow)

How would you best describe Dixie and Ellie: Both of my girls are rutters - the thicker the cover, the better they perform. This is the type of cover I most typically hunt for pheasants, cattail sloughs.

Where did you purchase your dogs from: I bought Dixie from Tom Oden when she was about 9 months old. Ellie was purchased from Tom Casey of River Valley British Labs in Le Sueur, MN. I like the characteristics and attributes of the British labs, primarily their disposition in the home and intensity in the field.

What events do you compete in: Top Gun Main, Doubles and Puppy

Who do you hang out with mostly while competing: Dana, Mark Stratmann, Paul Schultz and John Turnquist

What is your fondest hunting memory in competitive upland hunting: Winning the US Open Amateur title in '03 with my 73 year old father. The year before, my Dad was diagnosed with a rampant staph infection, paralyzing him from the waist down and placing him in a delirious coma. Eventually, he lost 2 vertebrae to the infection and those needed to be rebuilt - he was given a 50% chance of survival and a 10% chance to walk again. Thanks to his strong will and the great care he received from his doctors, my dad left the hospital 32 days later. 9 months later and after some coaxing, he and I ran Dixie at the Open. Despite not firing a shot, he was always in great position throughout the course. To this day, he displays that trophy for all to see and wears his jacket proudly wherever he goes. My dad will be 79 in December!

How long have you competed in upland competitions and how were you introduced to it: At the '02 US OPEN a good friend of mine, Paul Schultz introduced me to the sport. He and I went on to place 7th with his weim, Shea and I have been hooked ever since. He and I still compete in Doubles Events as I do with Stratmann and Turnquist.

If you could say one thing about another competitor, what would it be: In this sport, Doug Lunde is my role model. He is the most honest and fair player competing today. Win, lose or draw, he has a smile, handshake and kind word for everyone. He doesn't cheat, elects not watch other entries in the fields he hunts in even when permitted and still with the help of well trained dogs, he is always on the leader board and usually at or very near the top.

What is one thing your peers do not know about you: I was an Olympic hopeful in 1976. I competed in C-2 canoe racing in my youth, winning the MN State Championship twice. I also placed second in the 100 mile race in 1972 when I was just 15 years old and won the US Championship in '74. Unfortunately, I was sidetracked by the college experience and ultimately was not able to do both at the level I was accustomed to, eventually academics won out.