

# POINTERS



**Name:** Scott LaPlante

**State of residence:** Minnesota

**Family members:** Wanda (wife), Melissa (24), Brett (20) and Phil (16)

**Dog's names:** Audda (5) and Dexter (2)

**Breed:** Audda is a Wirehaired Pointing Griffon and Dexter is a German Shorthaired Pointer

**How would you describe Dexter:** In the home, he is Wanda's favorite. In the field he is nothing but a vapor trail. He is still maturing and sometimes this shows as he may go for a big run before he gets down to business and hunts. But when he does...

**Where did you buy Dexter:** From Mark and Julie Sweeney of Main Creek Kennel. *He is a Gauge pup!*

**How long have you participated in competitive hunting:** 4 years

**Who do you most frequently hang out with while competing:** Most of the time, I hang out with the group that I train with from Kanabec County and Pheasant Ridge Shooting Preserve. These guys have been terrific helping me out with strategy and practicing. No doubt, I am the rookie in this group.

**What is your fondest memory in the field:** My first Grif was a male we named Zeke. He was a calm, methodical worker and a stubborn German to boot. Shortly before my father became ill, I had the pleasure to take dad and Zeke out hunting. Dad worried that he would struggle to keep up with Zeke, but that dog worked perfectly that day for us. We had a wonderful time; dad especially. I lost Zeke on New Year's Eve and my dad the following February. It was a difficult season, but I will cherish the memory I have of that particular hunt for the rest of my life.

**If you could say one thing about another competitor (s), what would it be:** There have been so many competitors that have supported and inspired me the past 4 years it is hard to pick just one. I admire Steve Studer's intensity and desire to succeed. I suspect that he is tired of answering my questions. Bill Steeno is a pretty wise fellow as well and he'll help you if asked. One day he said something to me in a casual conversation that just stuck - "expect your dog to perform to standard". From that day on I became very aware of not only the *what* my dog was doing but *how* he was doing it.

**What type of firearm do you use:** I use a Franchi Alcione T O/U when competing and I also own a Benelli Cordoba that I'll use on occasion. My confidence level in each is about the same - not much.

**What type of ammunition do you use:** Federal Premium, I like to support the local company and I also use Hevi Shot when required.

**What is your favorite hunting story:** I was hunting with my two boys, Phil and Brett when Phil was just 12. A rooster got up in front of me at a distance I deemed to be too far to shoot. This bird made a swinging arc in front of each of us but never got any closer than when it first flushed. Suddenly, I hear a shot and look at Brett and he shrugs his shoulders as if to say, "Not me". I look over to Phil and there he is pumping his fist as if he'd scored the winning touchdown in the Super Bowl. Our Grif pup went out and made the retrieve, bringing it back to the proud shooter, Phil. He had just bagged his first pheasant!