

TEXAS DOG HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

UNLEASHED

We Stand for the Rights of All Dog Hunters!

Protect and Promote

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 30, 2010

Letter from the President



**Mr. Douglas
Mason**

2010 has started off great and is moving forward. Cystic Fibrosis Coon Hunt event in Atlanta, signed up 10 new coon hunting members and 2 renewals. The ones there are invited back for the May 1st event. Trailblazers' event in Athens, great turnout by members and their dogs. One of the biggest attended, and plans are for some type of hand outs for the future events.

Hunt for the Hungry March 5-7 in Hallettsville brought in 29,156 pounds of field dressed meat for the hungry. Many thanks to all that helped out and special thanks to all the new people that showed up and helped to make this a great event.

The growth of TDHA is the growth of something I care a great deal about, "TDHA moving forward". I would like to see TDHA with all types of dog hunters and dog owners. I will be here helping recruit good people from all types of working dog people. I look forward to seeing from the new board, local events and meetings, so local members can come together and know each other and be a part of the association. 2011 is going to be a busy time in Austin regarding legislation. This is a time we must all stand together to support and oppose bills that will be before the Committees and the House. I encourage all to keep up with what's going on when we post up on the "Court Room" message board.

"The Election" one of the most important things we have to do for the continuance of our growth. I would like to encourage more people to vote and support the new working board. I would also suggest that all the BODs get other members involved in helping them with their projects, keep a strong committee working, and keep all the members informed of what's going on within the association.

I'm so proud of this Organization and its growth. We have more paid members than we have ever had and some of the best working members with goals in mind. We need more new blood and members working toward growth and preserving the working and hunting dog owner. We have come a long way and I want to see TDHA go forward and become one of the strongest groups that preserve and protect all types of working and hunting dog rights.

Thanks to all for the support over the last six years. We have had our ups and downs, but with good people we have gotten to where we are today and continue to move forward. We have the Legal fund, Scholarship fund, the Crime Stoppers fund, feeding the needy, and keep the membership informed as to all legal bills that are trying to be passed. Working for the members that support TDHA has been a pleasure and I want to thank all of those that support the cause. I'll always be here to help any and all that ask for help and want to see more growth in the future.

Remember there is no end unless you quit. Step up, support, and vote to grow our association.

Thanks again.
Douglas Mason

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Letter to the Directors of TDHA and Members with Upcoming Events

I would like to take a moment to address the Directors of TDHA that I have had the honor of serving with over the past years. All have taken their duties seriously and performed to the best of their abilities. Thank you for working tirelessly for TDHA. To the Directors that will be leaving us this Year I want to take time out to individually recognize each of you.

Ron Branyon has acted in many positions as a director for TDHA, as our Public Relation Director, multitasker, and more recently handling the banking matters for TDHA. His expertise in multitasking came into play during the Hunt for the Hungry, handling all areas and seeing to it that we were well covered in the off-site processing this year. All that know Ron know that he is a hard worker. He has especially been working extra hard recently on the upcoming Election. I missed out on getting him as my "kennel boy." My loss is TDHA's gain!! Will miss working with you.

Lance Falzone has acted in the position as a Director in getting Donations and Sponsors for different Events for TDHA. His expertise has been in Fundraising and he has done a good "job." He has been a great leader in this capacity, plus many others as asked of him, including the upcoming election. Lance leaves us soon, having been deployed to Iraq, and I personally want to thank him for his service to his country. Thanks so much Lance.

Justin Hosea, being new, serving as an Interim Director, has fallen in place as needed and worked hard at whatever "job" he saw in need of his help. He was beneficial at the Scholarship Fundraiser held last year, just as a Member of TDHA, dedicating his time and effort into this Event wholeheartedly. As a Director, of only a few weeks, he stepped into the Cajun Light raffle, with other volunteers, and did an outstanding job. I would like to commend him for stepping up at the Hunt for the Hungry Cow Dog Demo, when it looked as if it would not happen, taking over with Paul Teegardin, putting on a great demonstration. Need more with your heart, my friend!! Thanks.

You will all be missed, as Directors and as friends to me, but know that whoever serves as Advisors, after the election, will be a great addition to our New Board and Executive Officers.

Paul Teegardin, will be remaining with TDHA as our Legal Director and has recently showed his mettle in having to guide us through the "maze" and legalities of the New, amended, By Laws. What a challenge. With this election coming up, Paul has had to be a head down, no nonsense Director and this is what he is best at. He is well versed in legislation and will be a great leader in that area. To the new Board, my advice is to seek him out when in doubt. We all need a mentor. Thank you, Paul, for being a friend first to TDHA and then to me. Continue to serve well.

I would like to say that there is not a whole lot going on right now, within the Board, as the Election is consuming their time, so no new news to report at this time.

Events coming up in the near future are the Dog Dockin' in Needville, Texas May 1st, a Coon Hunt Benefit in Atlanta, Texas, May the 1st, Coon Dog Trade Days in Hubbard, Texas, May 22nd, and the Election and Public Meeting May 23rd, in Iola, Texas.

Again, My Heartfelt Thanks, to all of you, as I step down and make way for a New Ruling Board. I know that all Candidates have TDHA's interest at heart so that whoever is allowed to serve will do so, and our other determined members, will work with the newly elected Directors on their Committees, that will be set up after a short Well transition period.

Thank you,
Douglas Mason, TDHA President

T-N-T Bay Pen

8255 FM 2954
Bremond, TX 76629
www.tntbaypen.com
Phone #:254-746-7628

T-N-T Bay Pen is located in the central part of our great state of Texas. Here you will find food and fun for the entire family. We pride ourselves in running an honest and family oriented event. Events are held monthly so please check our site for dates and times.

Wrights Curs

P.O. Box 6
Dryden, Texas
Phone # 432-345-3047
(Proud donor of BMC puppy for TDHA fundraiser)

Our breeding program is based on PROVEN Outstanding Working and Producing Individuals with Proven Genetics. We breed, work and sell Genetics, and have bred for the public over 20 years. Stock and Big Game dogs bred to be complete and outstanding.

2010 Hunt for the Hungry Hog Dog Tournament

On March 5, 6 and 7, Texas Dog Hunter's Association in partnership with Wild Boar USA /Ugly Dog Ranch hosted the 4th annual Hunt for the Hungry. This event has grown to be one of the largest hog hunts in Texas. That in itself would be impressive, but what makes it astounding is the quantity of meat donated to help feed the hungry resulting from this hunt. Over the last 4 years TDHA has donated over 70,000 pounds of pork to Hunter's Harvest. Hunter's Harvest has been the recipients of this pork and has helped provide volunteers from the benefiting missions to help with everything from unloading trucks to processing meat.

The hogs brought in this year were processed differently than in past years. During previous years processing was done by volunteers, on the premises. This year, TDHA was able to procure offsite processing which allowed us to operate much more efficiently. Donations from HEB and Hunter's Harvest were largely responsible for this improvement. TDHA also contributed a donation to sponsor students from Texas State University to attend the meat judging contest at the Houston Livestock Show in exchange for their time to help skin and process the almost 30,000 pounds of pork.

The offsite processing was just one of the improvements made to this Hunt for the Hungry. TDHA along with Wild Boar USA/Ugly Dog Ranch was able to schedule demonstrations to occur during the Expo that were both educational and entertaining. The crowd thoroughly enjoyed watching Lamar Smith perform with his exceptionally well trained personal protection dogs. I was fascinated by the control he maintained over the animals and his ability to command immediate obedience from not just one dog, but from several. He also gave very simple lessons on how to obedience train your everyday house pet. This included sit, stay, come and even tricks like roll over. His demonstration was complete, concise and entertaining.

Also provided for this entertainment section was a trapping demonstration given by Jim Brooks. He presented different traps and how to use them. He even trapped himself! He protected his fingers with a thick glove then snapped the trap! He did this to show how the trap works and what it does to the trapped animal.

After the trapping demonstration, Ms. Betty Leek provided a lecture on the benefits of the controversial raw meat diet. She explained how dry food was processed and that most of the nutrients were removed in the preparation process. So to gain back nutrients, they add artificial ingredients and chemicals that are not as beneficial as the meat that a carnivore such as canines need.

Shortly after these demonstrations concluded, the crowd moved outdoors to observe the cow dog demonstration. Justin Hosea and Paul Teegardin took turns in the saddle and held the crowd's attention while the dogs strutted their stuff in the arena. I had no idea that something as small as a dog could control a herd of cattle. They kept them in a very small group so they could be worked by the guys on the horses. For those of us who had never seen dogs work in this manner, it was truly educational and entertaining.

There was also entertainment for the children. A bounce house was provided and an archery range was set up by Lone Star Bowhunters Assn. for young and old alike to take a turn at shooting arrows at lifelike targets.

These were just a few of the events going on in conjunction with the Hunt for the Hungry. Over 40 booths with everything from knives to dog food to tracking collars were available to all. We had a great time and nearly 30,000 pounds of pork was donated to missions all across the Houston area. I can't say enough about this event that is very dear to my heart. Knowing I am part of an organization that helps take care of people in need helps fuel my desire to help it succeed. Thank you to all who helped make this year such a great success!

Baying in Diana, Texas by S. Mason

This was the first Baying put on by Brandon Fowler and the owners of Rocking H arena and I must say that it was extremely well run. It was a large venue and dogs and handlers were dispersed throughout the area to give the spectators the ability to visit with them all. Overall management of the Baying was fantastic, vendors had excellent set up places, and the one we enjoyed the most was the Food Booth.

Before leaving we were able to sign up 4 new members, get 3 renewals, sale T-shirts, and some koozies. So all in all, TDHA did well at this event and we have been invited back for future events.

Thanks to: Brandon Fowler for inviting TDHA to be in Diana, Texas April 17th and 18th for a Baying at the Rocking H Arena; Bill Huff, a member of TDHA and a Judge for the Baying, for making sure we had a great place to set up the TDHA trailer and our booth; and Stephanie Woods for working the TDHA booth with me.

**NOTICE OF TDHA ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS
(Official Notice was posted on TDHA general message board on April 22, 2010)**

When and where?

The annual meeting of the membership will be held at the Iola Community Center, 7264 Main Street, Iola, Texas 77861 on Sunday, May 23, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. The purpose of the annual meeting is to report on the Association's current fiscal status, to report the status of Association projects, as well as hold the election for Directors and Officers as per the Association's bylaws. Election of the Association's Directors and Officers is vitally important and we encourage all members to attend.

Who is eligible to vote for Directors and Officers?

In order to be eligible to vote in the election, you must be a member of TDHA at least 30 days prior to the election with your membership dues paid in full. If you are a member on or before April 23, 2010 then you will be eligible to vote.

How does the election process work?

Election of Directors and Officers shall be by popular vote of the membership of the Association present at the annual meeting of the membership by ballot or, if you are unable to be physically present at the meeting, by mailing your ballot and proxy form to TDHA. Members who attend the meeting will be checked against the membership list as of April 23, 2010 to be sure you were a member on or before that date (30 days prior to the election) to ensure your eligibility to vote. Ballots with Proxy Forms mailed in by those who are unable to attend the meeting will be checked against that April 23, 2010 membership list to ensure eligibility to vote. Those ballots submitted at the meeting will be counted along with the mailed in Ballot and Proxy Forms to determine the results of the election of Directors and Officers.

If I am unable to be physically present at the meeting, how do I vote?

If you are unable to attend the meeting on May 23, 2010, you may complete a ballot, check off the box under the "Proxy" section of the form, print your name, sign and date the ballot. You will need to mail the ORIGINAL signed ballot with the box under "Proxy" checked to: TDHA, P.O. Box 972, Columbus, TX 78934. Your Ballot and Proxy Form MUST be received at this address no later than Thursday, May 20, 2010. We recommend that you mail your ballot AT LEAST THREE (3) DAYS PRIOR TO MAY 20, 2010 to ensure that it is received timely. Please make sure you print your name on your ballot clearly so your name can be checked against the membership list. Also, please make sure to sign and date your ballot and to check off the box in the "Proxy" section of the form or your ballot will not be valid.

What is a Proxy and why do I need to check that box if I am mailing in my ballot?

The Association's bylaws require the election of Directors and Officers to be conducted at the annual meeting of the membership by a popular vote of the members present or by Proxy. The Proxy allows for your ballot to be submitted AS IF YOU WERE PHYSICALLY PRESENT AT THE MEETING. The Association's bylaws require a 10% Quorum (10 percent of the total number of members whether in person or by proxy) be present at the meeting for the meeting and election to be valid. The 10% Quorum can be met by counting those members present and those that mail in their proxy.

Where to I get the Ballot and Proxy Form?

The Ballot and Proxy Form are on the next page of this newsletter. Please tear out at the perforation, complete (make sure to check the box under "Proxy" if you will not be at the meeting) and mail the completed and signed Ballot and Proxy Form in the enclosed pre-address envelope. If your newsletter does not contain a pre-addressed envelope, our sincere apologies (please place your ballot in an envelope to TDHA, P.O. Box 972, Columbus, TX 78934).

What happens if I'm not sure if I will be able to attend the meeting?

We recommend that you mail in the Ballot and Proxy Form. If you are able to attend the meeting, your Ballot and Proxy Form will be returned to you at the meeting to be submitted by you in person.

We encourage all members to attend the annual meeting of the membership on May 23, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. CST. This meeting is a great opportunity for members to meet and for issues of great concern to us all to be discussed. If you are not able to attend in person, please mail in your Ballot and Proxy Form. The Directors and Officers of this Association are determined by YOU, the membership. Your participation in the election process is vital to TDHA.

**TEXAS DOG HUNTERS ASSOCIATION 2010 ELECTION
Ballot and Proxy Form**

Candidates for Office of President

Please place one (1) check in the box next to the candidate you are voting for as President. Vote for no more than one (1) candidate ONLY. The officer position of President is also a Director on the Board of Directors.

<u>President</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jay Hutto

Candidates for Board of Directors

Please check no more than 5 boxes under the "Director" column next to the candidates you are voting for. The candidate you vote for as President will hold one of the 6 Director positions. The remaining 5 positions will be filled by candidates with the highest votes – 4 candidates with the highest votes will have 2 year Director terms and next 2 highest will have 1 year terms.

<u>Director</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donald Adair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anthony Bollman
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bobby Buff
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Leveridge
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buster Smith
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Wood

Candidates for Office of Vice President

Please place one (1) check in the box next to the candidate you are voting for. Vote for no more than one (1) candidate ONLY.

<u>V.P.</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Hunt

Candidates for Office of Secretary

Please place one (1) check in the box next to the candidate you are voting for. Vote for no more than one (1) candidate ONLY.

<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leslie Hunt

Candidates for Office of Treasurer

Please place one (1) check in the box next to the candidate you are voting for. Vote for no more than one (1) candidate ONLY.

<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Candidates</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leia Leveridge

Proxy

I will be unable to attend the annual meeting of the membership to be held at Iola, Texas on May 23, 2010. By checking this box and writing my full name along with my legal signature below, I am submitting my Ballot by Proxy. This Proxy is valid for one day only, May 23, 2010 at the annual meeting of the membership in Iola, Texas.

Printed Name and Dated Signature

Please print your full name then sign and date below where indicated. If you will not be attending the annual meeting of the membership in Iola, Texas on May 23, 2010 and are submitting your Ballot by Proxy, please check the box above under Proxy and mail this completed and signed Ballot and Proxy to: TDHA, P.O. Box 972, Columbus, TX 78934.

Print Full Name

Signature

Date

TDHA Financial Report for January-April 12, 2010

Account Balance
 Legal \$ 3,300.00

Scholarship Fund 3,000.00

General Fund Account

date	ck#	for	amount	deposit	date	ck#	for	amount	deposit
1/6/10	398	Trailer	\$2070.00		2/10/10	358	t-shirt give away/HftH	1480.00	
1/12/10	399	Stamps	92.00		2/17/10		DEPOSIT FROM PAY/PAL		500.00
1/13/10	400	Koozies	135.00		2/17/10		chg/bank cks	15.45	
1/15/10	352	Garmin (for raffle)	550.00		2/17/10		DEPOSIT		300.00
1/19/10		DEPOSIT FROM PAY/PAL		\$500.00	2/22/10		trailer tag/tax	169.89	
1/19/10	351	Stamps	100.00		2/24/10		PAY PAL TRANSFER		500.00
1/20/10		DEPOSIT MEMBERS AND DONATIONS		775.00	2/26/10	"	"		600.00
1/20/10		returned ck. for member	25.00		3/01/10	"	"		600.00
1/20/10	354	cards/decals	382.50		3/02/10		DEPOSIT		1442.00
1/21/10	353	Posters/expo	198.00		3/02/10	"	"		660.00
1/25/10	394	Bayed Solid adv.	200.00		3/03/10		PAY PAL TRANSFER		500.00
1/26/10		DEPOSIT/SPONSORS		1050.00	3/03/10		DEPOSIT		440.00
1/26/10	355	50%deposit for poligraph	600.00		3/04/10		PAY PAL TRANSFER		1000.00
2/02/10	356	Newsletter	550.00		3/05/10	"	"		1000.00
2/03/10		DEPOSIT		215.00	3/05/10	"	"		700.00
2/03/10	357	Banners	273.24		3/05/10		DEPOSIT		850.00
2/05/10		DEPOSIT FROM PAY/PAL		521.00	3/05/10		Cash withdrawn for change at Expo		1000.00
2/10/10		DEPOSIT		225.00			Ending balance		
					3/05/10				\$11,790.14

starting Balance Jan/2010 7,298.27

3/05/10 through 4/01/10 Hunt for the Hungry Receipts and Expenses
 (complete report to be given at Election/Public meeting 5/23/10)

Beginning Balance \$11,790.14
 Expenses \$16,072.00
 Deposits \$13,524.05

Outstanding Checks:
 #403 Texas State 1,000.00
 #406TDHA/new account 500.00
 #407ADCO/plaques for sponsors 330.00
 #408James Reasoner, cost for mail out plaques and 6 BOD shirts 180.94
 Total Outstanding 2,010.94

General Fund Balance as of 4/12/10 \$ 7,231.25
 Prepared 4/12/10 by Douglas Mason

4 States Cystic Fibrosis Coon Hunt Event

TDHA was invited to the 4 States Cystic Fibrosis Coon Hunt Association Event, held in Atlanta, Texas the last weekend of February, by Timmy Whatley, a TDHA member and Sissy Byrum, the Secretary of the Atlanta, Texas Cystic Fibrosis Club. The first thing I thought of was DIVERSIFY and was determined, if Board approved, to be there. We were given the green light and Stephanie, Savannah Wood, and I set up a Booth representing TDHA.

This was a fun Event, family oriented from beginning to end. The purpose of this yearly event is to aide children and families touched by Cystic Fibrosis. All proceeds are allocated to a family or given directly to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

All types of events were held during the day, from kids' bench shows, to adult Bench shows, and auctions. During one of the "kids'" Bench Shows, Savannah, with a tiny little 3 year old girl named Jordan, entered her jagds and they both came out with a Trophy. Jordan wanted to continue showing. One of these Events "calling cards" was fine food and I must say it was "fine." Thanks, Sissy.

During the course of the day we were able to sign up 10 new members, all coon hunters and get two renewals. It was great to be able to touch so many people for the cause of TDHA. The coon hounds were there, restless, waiting for night to come, so they entertained everyone for the better part of the day, rehearsing "with song", preparing for the hunt. This was a great day for all.

Athens Trailblazer Event by Leia Leveridge

Texas Dog Hunters Association is actively involved with the US Sportsman Alliances National Youth Outdoor Program "Trailblazers". TDHA joined in this program to help introduce families and youth to the thrill of the outdoors. We show the youth how to enjoy outdoor sports safely and the importance of its conservation. This is a one day program usually at a boy scout facility. The activities usually include fishing, trapping, firearm safety, and other hands on activities. To help promote outdoor appreciation TDHA attends to allow the youth and their parents to learn how hunting helps to maintain and preserve ecosystems and the importance of hunting and hunting with dogs. At the TDHA booth in Athens we had a wonderful turnout. The day was bright and full of youngsters. We showed them the importance of the use of dogs in hunting/working. We showed how we protect our dogs from harm and all the protective gear we dress our dogs in to keep them safe. Hog skulls and cutters were available for hands on activities so the kids could see and feel first hand why dogs required such protection. The kids and parents were amazed that the material was Kevlar like those that the police wear on their bullet proof vests. We demonstrated the use of tracking technology, how our GPS systems works with satellites so we know where the dogs are. Pictures of dogs hunting mountain lions, hogs, fowl, coons and some blood-trailing were readily available for the eager hands to rummage through. Antlers from 4 different types of deer were displayed which led to one of the days most shocking moments. A little boy looked at the antlers and asked what they were. We stated they were deer antlers. The boy said he didn't know what a deer was. Shocked!!! We dug feverishly through pictures to find the little boy a picture of a deer so he could see one for the first time. Little did we know that his mother also didn't know what a deer was. That moment demonstrates the reason TDHA attends these events, we are there to educate our youth about the outdoors and all that they hold for us. After that shocking moment we get to the biggest hit with the kids, of course, it was the DOGS!!! Live interaction with hunting, blood-trailing and working dogs. At the event were Stephanie and Savannah Wood, Lance Falzone, Joe Leveridge & myself, I'il Joe, Rose, Ragan and Brendan (Vaughn) and our dogs. The kids and dogs enjoyed event and we appreciate USSA inviting us to this Event.

Legislative Contacts

Following is a list of websites where you can go to contact Federal and State Legislators as well as links to groups watching laws coming up:

Federal

<http://.house.gov/>
<http://www.thomas.gov/>

Texas

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>
<http://www.responsiblepetowners.org/>
<http://www.texaswildlifeunlimited.com/>
texas_outdoor_partners/

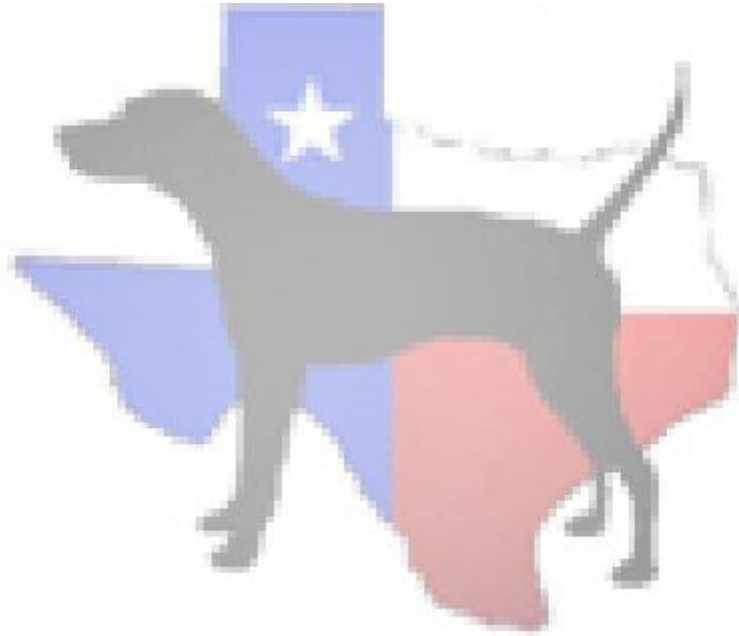
Legislative Watch Groups

<http://ussportsmen.org/Page.aspx?pid=240>
<http://saova.org/news.html>

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Texas Dog Hunters Association
P.O. Box 972
Columbus, TX 78934

TDHA Website
www.thenewtdha.com



Thank You to Our President

Dedicated, Steadfast, Honorable. These words would only scratch the surface of describing Douglas Mason. Mr. Mason has, for the past six years, stood at the helm of the Texas Dog Hunters Association as our President, statesman and patriarch. Unwavering, he has led the charge to Protect and Promote dog hunting in the great state of Texas. From the steps of the Capital to the dusty bay pen and all the woodlands between, Mr. Mason has stood strong, garnering support in a never ending battle against loss of our freedoms. To those who have needed help, he has provided guidance. To those who stood with him, he has been an ally, and to all who have made his acquaintance he has been a friend. A man of few words, Mr. Mason has spoken volumes in action. Leading by example, he has humbly shouldered the cause and the load of the TDHA and marched forward to ensure future generations the right to legally pursue game with their dogs. The TDHA and all hunting/working dog owners will forever owe him a debt of gratitude, for no one has done more for the cause. As Mr. Douglas Mason steps down from TDHA's helm, join me in offering him a hearty Thank You for all he has done and a solemn pledge to continue forward carrying his torch.

Mr. Mason, You have been my mentor and I'm proud to call you my friend. You have set the standard high and the noble example you have been shall guide us for years ahead. Though others will take on your responsibilities, you will forever be irreplaceable in our hearts. TDHA will stride forward because of you, but will surely suffer at your loss. THANK YOU. – by John Wood on behalf of the entire TDHA Membership