

# Quail Country Plantation

## Springing into Off-Season

Spring has sprung. Here at Quail Country that means a whole host of new adventures. Although the plantation shepherds hundreds of gun-wielding tourists through the lodge from October through March, there is much more than that for these pines and brambles within the months of April and September. The off-season as it is respectively called allows for the woods to transition from strictly quail hunting courses to a time of rejuvenation for conservation practices.

Every good thing must come to an end. The same is true for quail hunting. Quail Country usually cuts the commercial season short in March in hopes to prepare the courses for productive burns before the rain showers in April. Burning is one of the most important quail



The burning of one hunting course in preparation for next season.

habitat management tools. The process controls excessive woody invasion, stimulates new growth and removes accumulated litter. Not only are wild quail more encouraged to feed in burned woods, Quail Country will soon plant feed patches throughout their courses to provide sound nutrition. In addition to the wildlife management in the off-season, this time of year offers the 14,000 square foot lodge more of the

opportunity to host weddings, receptions, corporate retreats, birthday parties and other special events, including use of the Conference Center next door which is commonly called the Pavilion.

Other vital happenings on the plantation this time of year is dog training, dog breeding, landscaping and facility maintenance.

### Recent Events:

- A surprise 25th wedding anniversary and 50th birthday celebration was had by a local family and their friends this past month in honor of the couple. They utilized QCP catering as well as the main lodge's dining room for the surprise celebration!
- For the fourth year in a row, we housed and fed some of the country-wide competitors of the AIM Rifle & Gun Club- Stars & Bars Legion Trophy Regional held at the Legion OTG in Blakely, GA.
- Quail Country re-opened the Pavilion doors again this off-season for Yoga at the Pavilion which takes place 2-3 times a week and is led by a certified yoga instructor.
- Quail Country teamed with Burning Bush Ministries in support of the sixth annual Tommy Newberry Fun Shoot. The event began in memory of Quail Country's founder. His legacy continues in Quail Country and his vision remains at Burning Bush.



## Important Updates:

- Here's to safer hunting! A gun-safety video will be available for the 2015-2016 hunting season for ALL of our hunting guests to view prior to their first hunt. Charles Plant, owner of Creative Services in Sharpsburg, Georgia, recently joined Quail Country in producing an educational video produced specifically for the plantation, on the plantation. You should be able to see some familiar actors and actresses.
- Quail Country has hired native to North Carolina, Matt Dyson, as Kennel Manager.

## Cockers at QC

They are an extension of the Quail Country family. No expense is spared when it comes to the care and health of a Quail Country English Cocker. It comes to no surprise to what some of the recent owners of Quail Country cockers are saying: "We absolutely love our English Cocker. She is such a sweet dog and has bonded well with our children and other animals." "He has the absolute coolest personality and you can tell someone has spent a lot of time with him." "She is doing great, nearly house trained. She's so smart."

There is a Quail Country Plantation Kennel Guarantee that every puppy has superior health, and if the new owner

is not completely satisfied within the first year, it is preferred the new owner return him or her for a full refund to ensure customer satisfaction and the puppy's well being.

Quail Country awaits the opportunity to introduce you to the kennels where these pups are Orvis- Endorsed bred. English Cockers are bred throughout the year at Quail Country. This breed of dog proves to be an exceptional flusher and retriever—a true hunting companion. Their compact size and conviviality make them wonderful house pets as well as a dog that adapts well to children and other family pets within the home.



Fresh Cocker litter at Quail Country. Picture courtesy of BackLight.

## NEW THIS SEASON...

All the way from Mocksville, North Carolina, Matthew Dyson has been selected as the new Kennel Manager and joined the Quail Country team in March. This is not Dyson's first trip to Arlington, Georgia, though. Dyson has spent time at the Quail Country Kennels for the past two summers. His background in training, guiding and breeding as well as his familiarity with our Kennel program put him in good graces as the Manager position became available at the close of the 2014-2015 hunting season.

Dyson has personal experience with breeding and training in the field trial arena with much success. Additionally, preserves and resorts in Virginia and North Carolina can attest to his knowledge in training, guiding and breeding. When not working with dogs, Dyson can be found fishing, writing, painting or hunting. He has a degree in Organizational Communication and Leadership from Methodist University in North Carolina. There he was President of the Outdoor Activities Club, a founding father of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and recipient of the college's prestigious award for leadership excellence.



Dyson, working with an English Cocker in the exercise yard.



A wild plum branch almost ready for picking.

## Wild about Plums

The American plum tree that is affectionately called the wild plum at Quail Country are more like shrubs that cultivate much throughout the United States. The flowering of the "Prunus Americana" in spring and ripening of fruit in summer may not allow you to recognize the wild plums at Quail Country, but maybe you have seen your fair share around the country. For many reasons, Quail Country is wild about these plums!

Native Americans used these exact tree roots to create red dye. Multiple species of wildlife, including the Bobwhite Quail, use the tree shrub as nesting cover and the fruit for browsing. The fruit can also be used in jellies, pies and preserves. Quail Country offers the following these plums: (You'll need about 5 pounds of wild plums, 4 cups of water, package of powdered fruit pectin and 7 1/2 cups of sugar)

1. Sinker halved and pitted plums and water in a stockpot until tender.
2. Place plum mixture in a cheesecloth lined strainer until liquid measures 5 1/2 cups.
3. Return liquid to pot and add pectin. Bring to a boil. Add sugar, bring to a full rolling boil for 1 minute. Stir constantly.
4. Remove from heat; skim off any foam. Ladle into sterilized jars leaving headspace.



## Peanut Production Again

Quail Country made a decision this year to lease additional land to a farmer on which to plant peanuts. You may or may not recognize the 'Airplane Field' in this photograph. The field has already been prepared for the planting of 2015 season peanuts.

The peanut or 'groundnut' is a species in the family *Fabaceae* (commonly known as the pea, bean, or legume family). The specific name, *hypogaea* means 'under the ground'. The peanut grows and develops underground. The question, "What does a peanut tree look like?"

In botanical terms, 'nut' refers to indehiscence fruit, the peanut is not technically a nut, but is a legume. We have found that no matter what it is called, it is still good to eat!

The decision to allow peanut planting has resulted in a couple of desirable things at Quail Country Plantation. The grass-infested field had become overgrown with Bermuda grass which does nothing to facilitate our native quail population. As you are probably aware, the 'Airplane Field' is home for several covies of native quail. These provide rather sporting as well as challenging shooting.

Peanut foliage presents deer population with rather good browsing. It is also home for several species of insects which provide fresh-born quail their only source of protein and water. After harvest, the residue (and broken peanut morsels) provide excellent quail food and perhaps will attract dove!