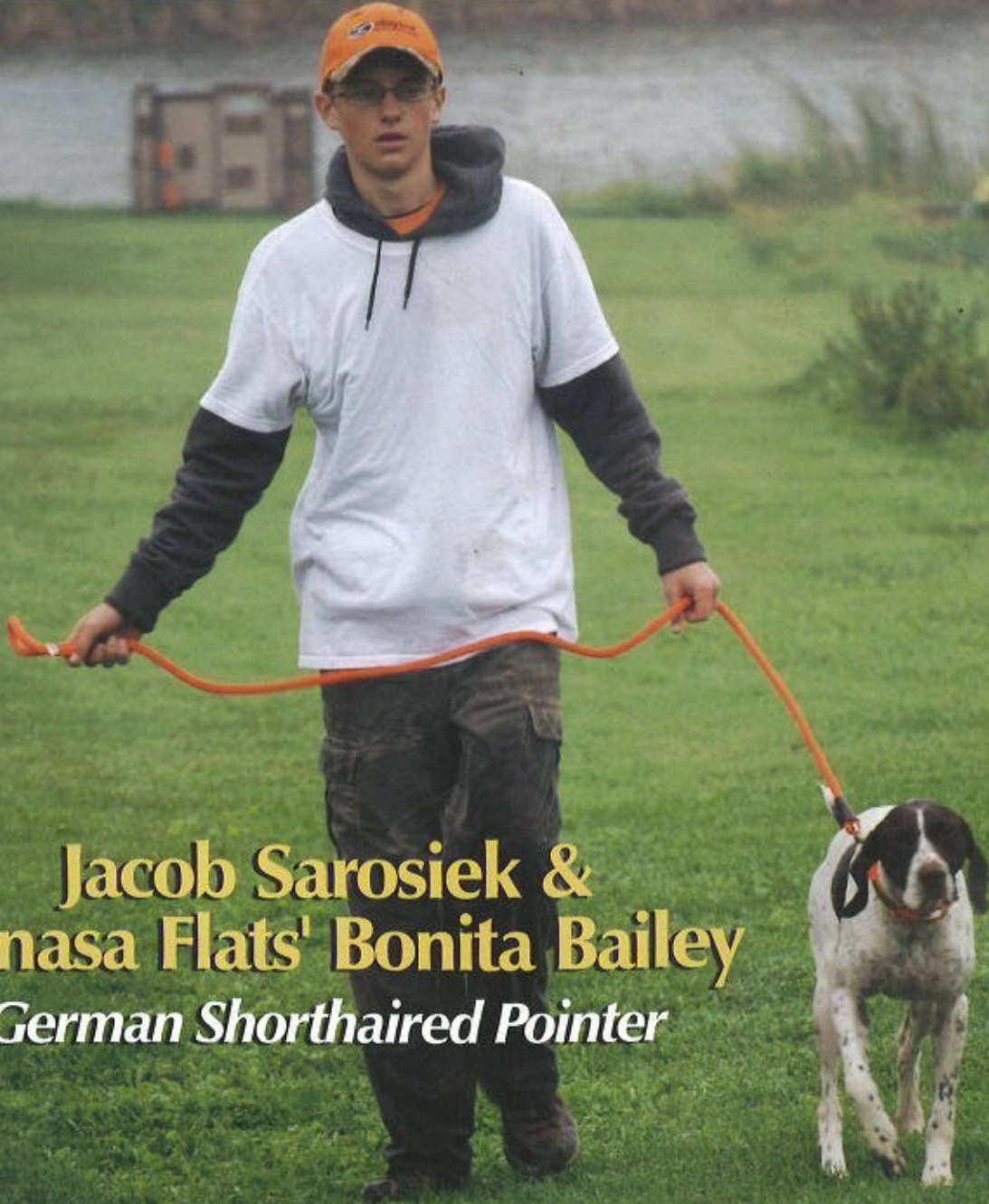


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A Publication of The North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association • Volume XLII • No. 8 • August 2011



**Jacob Sarosiek &  
Bonasa Flats' Bonita Bailey**  
*German Shorthaired Pointer*

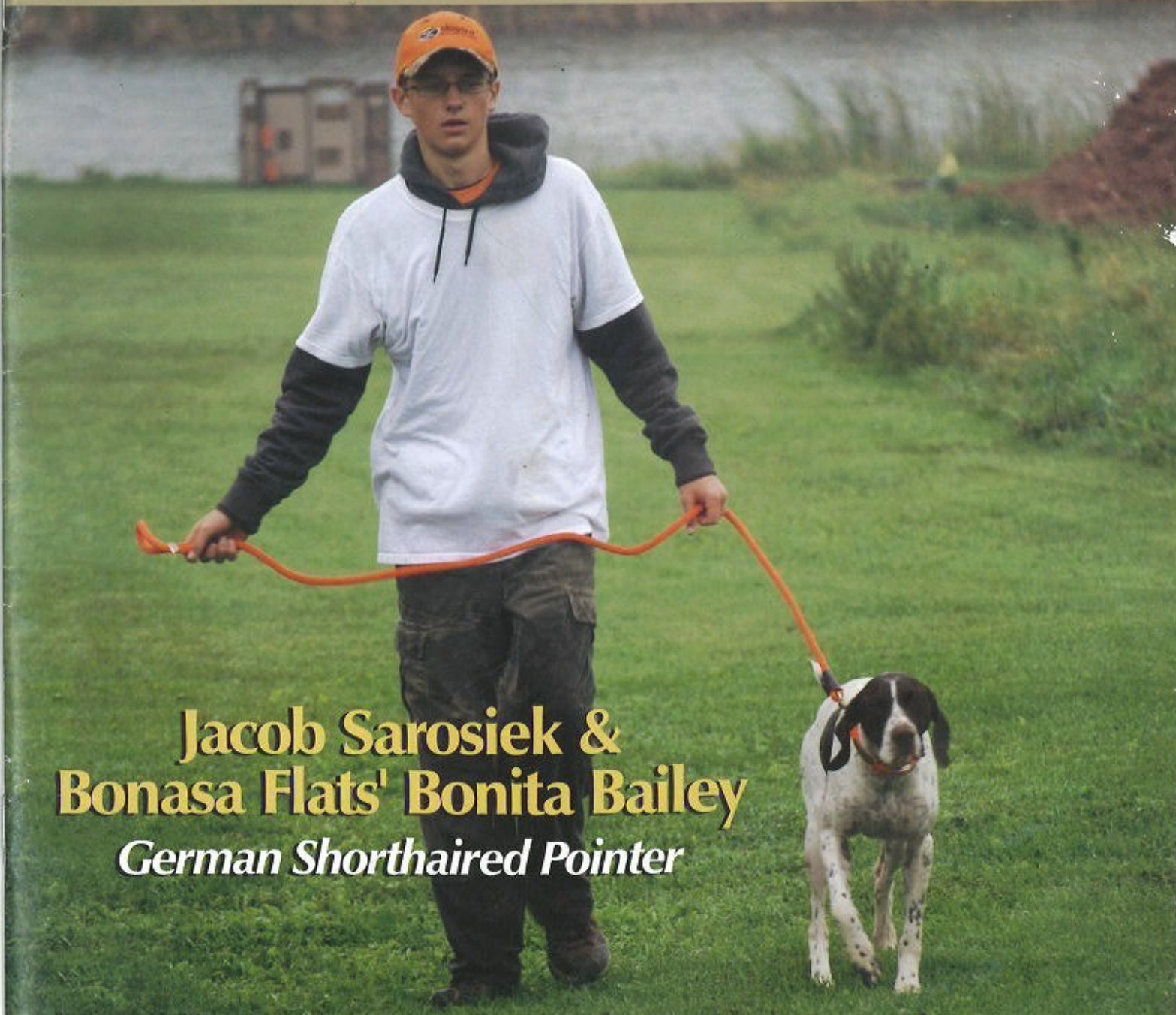
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## Spotlight Dog

by Rachel Faucett  
Wylie, Texas

# Bluebonnet Brooke

## Vizsla



### My First Test

In our family, we're pretty big on hunting and own three Vizslas. Our first two dogs are great hunters, but they weren't perfect. We learned a lot about dogs and hunt tests through our friends in NAVHDA and, when we picked up Brooke, we decided to plan for the Natural Ability test. Brooke is amazing. She is a great hunter and is always happy. Although she's just a puppy, I think she has a lot of potential; she isn't afraid to challenge and plays with our bigger dogs.

On April 10, 2011, Brooke and I ran our first test with NAVHDA. We had been working with Brooke ourselves and had some help from our trainer, James Collier. The week before the test, I helped my dad practice for the test with Brooke, working the field, tracking, and swimming. Brooke hadn't learned to swim very well, but practicing in our pool and ponds in the neighborhood helped to gain her some confidence, and she responded really well for me. After training Friday night, my dad and I had dinner with the judges. Well, we got to talking, and David Egger and other members of the Texas Chapter convinced my dad to have me run Brooke.

To start off the test day, my dad woke me up at 4:30 a.m.; that made me really tired. We arrived to the hunt test around 7:00 a.m., and met up with everyone who entered. They were really nice, and I wasn't feeling any pressure. When Brooke and I were getting ready for our first exercise—field—Brooke was ecstatic. I wasn't that stressed though, because your dog will copy you. Just because a dog is a

little excited to hunt, you can't get all freaked out. After jumping all around, Brooke immediately took off into the field. Her points were strong, and she seemed to listen really well after Mr. Vetter gave me some tips.

Around 10:00, it was time for our tracking. By that time, Brooke and I were relaxed and decided to think things through. This was the only event I was a little worried about. When Brooke and I

practiced back at our house, she did ok, but on Friday she was a disaster. We finally made it to our turn, and Brooke followed the pheasant right on the track. At first I thought she didn't do well, but then realized she didn't have to point the bird or catch it; she had to follow its scent.

Next up was the water, which was really easy. Brooke was excited to swim, and retrieved all the bumpers. Also, it was really funny to see all the other dogs swim perfectly, when Brooke was splashing like crazy. Mr. Vetter and the other Judges made sure Brooke was all normal during the exam, and the testing officially ended. Receiving our scores seemed to take forever, and I was also a little confused. At first I didn't know what to think. It took me a while to realize what the highest score was, but Brooke did pretty well. She got 112 points and a Prize II!

After the test was over, the judges went with us for some lunch. I think they don't get a lot of Mexican food, because that's all we ate the WHOLE weekend.