



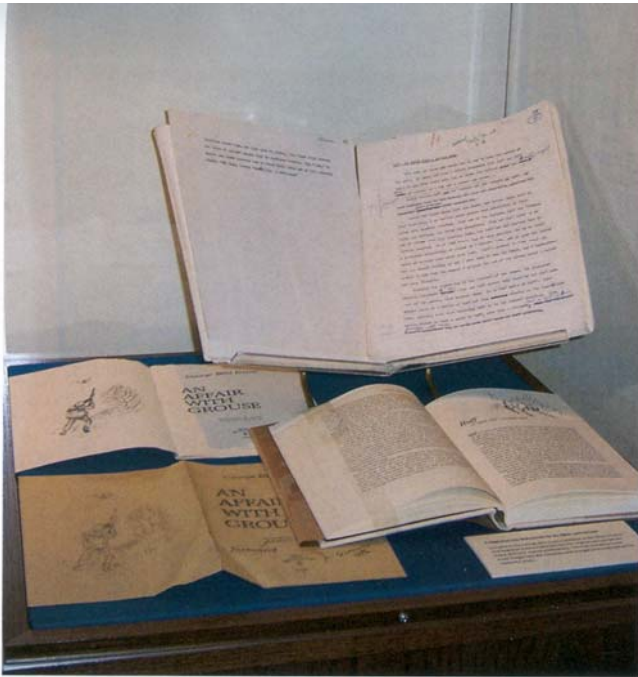
Editor's Note: From our first issue until his death in 1998, the writing of George Bird Evans was an integral part of The Pointing Dog Journal. When George's wife Kay died in 2007, arrangements were made for a special section of the West Virginia University library to house a permanent display of the Evans' memorabilia. Roger Brown, who was left the Evans' Old Hemlock bloodline of English setters, attended the dedication ceremony. —SS

Remembering GBE

by Roger Brown

West Virginia University Libraries honored West Virginia Day on June 20, 2008, by hosting a reception and a dedication ceremony to celebrate the George Bird Evans Collection addition to their West Virginia and Regional History Collection. An extensive collection of personal papers, manuscripts, books, and other materials by and about George and Kay Evans was donated by the Kay Harris Evans Estate and will now be available to the public.

Breakfast hors d'oeuvres and drinks were provided by WVU. WVU Libraries' John Cuthbert introduced George Bird Evans to those gathered, recounting how the Library had been honored with the collection of his work. He introduced LeJay



Graffious, a neighbor and good friend of the Evans and one of the three trustees of the estate that made the literary donation possible. He introduced the other trustees, Jeff Leach and his wife Gabriella, and Jeff Kauffman and his wife Kendra (who was home tending to the litter of nine Old Hemlock puppies). I was introduced as the one continuing the Old Hemlock line of setters.

David Hall spoke about how he had acquired his extensive collection of Evans work. LeJay Graffious then presented a video of George and Kay Evans and what their home Old Hemlock was and is today. It was nice to see George walking with Kay around the grounds they cherished.

Cathy Harper, GBE Biographer, gave the keynote address. She acknowledged what George and Kay had meant to her and to the many sportsmen who read his work and came to know the Evans. Cathy told of the attitude toward game that George had in all of his writing and how it impacted her and others who had read his work, and will have an effect in the future for all who read his books. She told of how the Evans were thought of as George and Kay, not one without the other, and how they complemented each other and had lived a full, creative, and complete life, on their terms, in West



November / December 2008

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Virginia at Old Hemlock. That was evident by the number of their neighbors, young and old, attending this celebration in addition to those who were readers and admirers of his work.

A birthday cake was served at precisely 11:30 by WVU to celebrate the anniversary of the creation of the state of West Virginia on June 20, 1863. At noon, the Sportsmen's Galleries Collection was opened to the public, featuring the Evans Collection. West Virginia University did a wonderful job, and the display was amazing. Guests received a nice poster commemorating West Virginia Day 2008 that displays a photograph of George's Shooting Diary.

Many friends of George and Kay and West Virginia University personnel were invited to a reception provided by the Katherine H. Evans Estate at Old Hemlock. The food was plentiful, delicious, and presented artistically with young Wade Marshall providing background music on his guitar. Guests visited and reminisced about their experiences with George and Kay and their Old Hemlock setters.

After touring Old Hemlock, they were treated to bird dog demonstrations by some current Old Hemlock setters working quail. Tom Bowman had Old Hemlock Bracken, from one of the last litters George bred, and young Old Hemlock Boswell. Steve Marshall had a six-month-old puppy from a recent litter, Old Hemlock Carmel. It is hard to imagine Old Hemlock without a setter roaming the grounds, and LeJay and Ann Graffious picked up their Old Hemlock setter puppy at Jeff and Kendra Kauffman's the following week.

It was a nice visit and even better knowing anyone interested could visit the George Bird Evans Collection at the WVU Libraries where their work will be preserved and displayed.

