

Treeing Walker Coonhound Takes Highest Honors

Nearly 170 contenders took part in annual Grand American event in South Carolina.

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Overall Bench Show Winner:

Diamond Ridge Queen of Diamonds A Treeing Walker Coonhound named Diamond Ridge Queen of Diamonds, owned by Vera Bergbauer of Hartford City, Ind., beat out nearly 170 other competitors to take Best in Show honors during the 42nd annual Grand American coonhound bench show the weekend of Jan. 5, 2007, in Orangeburg, S.C.

An audience of nearly 40,000 spectators filled the Orangeburg Fairgrounds to experience the event. The weekend's Nite Hunt competitions were simulated hunting events in which no game was taken and no firearms were permitted, in accordance with United Kennel Club regulations.

Second Place: Outlaw Josie Wails Overall Nite Hunter winner was Grand Nite Ch. Hammerin Texas Style Zippo, a Treeing Walker Coonhound, owned and handled by William Robinson. TWC Outlaw Josie Wails, owned by Sherman Frost and John Gullett of Blythewood, S.C., earned second place overall. Grand Nite Ch. Oklahoma's Pistol Pete, owned by Randy Steadman of Kingsport, Tenn., also a TWC, took third place. And Timothy Hutto of Moncks Corner, S.C., with his 5-year-old, Nite Ch. Drain's Little Sneak, placed fourth overall.

This year's Grand American event also featured a breeders' showcase in which many dogs were on display for spectators to view up close, and owners and breeders were available to talk about the coonhound breeds' temperaments, abilities, ownership and handling.

Other coonhounds competing included Redbones, Plotts, American Black and Tans, Blueticks and English Coonhounds.

Complete Grand American results and a schedule of upcoming events are available at the Hunting Programs section of the UKC website at <http://www.ukcdogs.com/HPCoonhounds.htm>