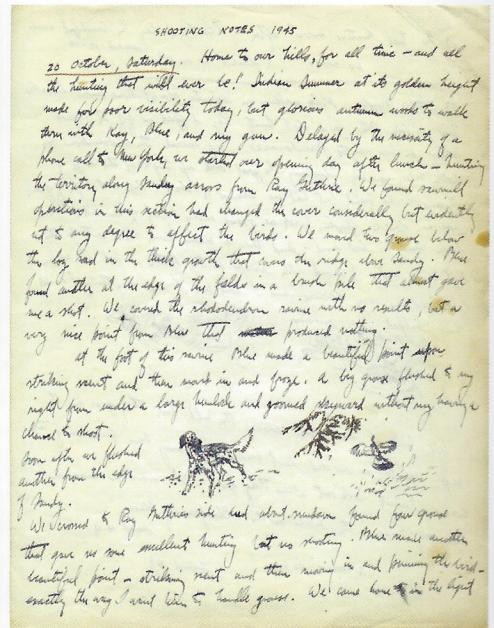


WVRHC LAUNCHES GEORGE BIRD EVANS DIGITAL COLLECTION



▲ Above: George Bird Evans poses with Blue and Dawn, ca. 1940. Right: Shooting notes, October 20, 1945.

West Virginia University Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC) has launched a digital collection that chronicles more than six decades of work by acclaimed outdoorsman, author and illustrator George Bird Evans.

The George Bird Evans Collection – gbe.lib.wvu.edu – contains 65 years of detailed handwritten hunting journals in which Evans meticulously recorded the results of hunting excursions, primarily in West Virginia's Allegheny Mountains.

"George Bird Evans was one of the world's foremost authorities on upland bird shooting and fine bird dogs," WVRHC Director John Cuthbert said. "His eloquence and philosophical bent earned him an avid following among hunting literature enthusiasts across the nation and beyond."

In the late 1920s, Evans began working as an illustrator in New York City and quickly earned a reputation as a gifted artist.

In 1939, missing the wildlife and wilderness he loved since childhood, Evans and his wife, Kay, relocated to a Revolutionary War era hewn-log farmhouse in Preston County.

At that homestead, which he called Old Hemlock, Evans authored more than two dozen books and hundreds of magazine articles about bird hunting, shooting and bird dogs in the ensuing years. His book "The Upland Shooting Life" became an instant classic and gained him a loyal following that continues to this day.

In addition to hunting literature, Evans and his wife together wrote a series of mystery novels. They also collaborated in breeding a line of "Old Hemlock" English setters whose descendants are treasured today by bird dog enthusiasts throughout America. George and Kay passed away in 1998 and 2007, respectively. ♡

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