

# 2<sup>nd</sup> International Small Game Conference



SPEAKER  
INTRODUCTION

**János Csanda**

Cargill Feed Ltd.

**PHEASANT FEEDING  
WITH "PURINA"**

Between 2002 and 2025, I worked as a feed nutrition consultant and later as the Purina dealer manager. I graduated from the University of Szeged, Faculty of Hódmezővásárhely, in 2006.

I played an active role in launching the Small Game Conference and have supported its organisation ever since. Together with Perjési és Társa Ltd., we spent years perfecting Purina's pheasant feed products and their feeding technologies.

Although I am not a hunter myself, I work closely with many hunting associations and individual professionals, providing continuous support, practical guidance and expertise to assist their daily work.

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**László Farkas**

**THE IMPACT OF HABITAT  
ON GAME POPULATIONS**



Since completing my thesis at the Game Management Department of the College of Food Industry in Szeged in 1975, I have been studying the impact of habitat on game populations.

Between 1983 and 1991, as a professional hunter at the Széchenyi Zsigmond Hunting Association in Gerendás, I dedicated my time to putting these ideas into practice. Later, from 1998 to 2020, as the head of the same hunting association, I was able to apply my concepts even more effectively — the essence of which was to redirect resources from pheasant rearing toward habitat improvement. We achieved this in a large-scale, intensively cultivated agricultural area with excellent natural conditions.

I firmly believe that the greatest positive influence on a given area comes from the local professional hunter — provided he is respected and valued. This, I am convinced, was one of the keys to our success.

For more than forty years, I have hunted small game with self-trained dogs. Over this time, I have had several excellent pointers, among which one shorthaired Hungarian vizsla stood out — with whom I reached the finals of the National Pointer Championship six times in a row. My current shorthaired German pointer seems to be a worthy successor of that exceptional dog.

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**Tibor Farkas**

Professional Gamekeeper  
Solt Vécsey Hunting Association

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

My name is Tibor Farkas, and I have been working as a professional small game keeper for 33 years. I hold a degree in game management engineering and am also a contributor to Magyar Vadászlap (Hungarian Hunting Journal). My main area of expertise is predator population control through trapping — the subject of my book *The Handbook of Modern Trapping*. Throughout my career, I have always considered it essential to preserve the traditions of pheasant hunting, preferably with wild or semi-wild birds.

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## **Prof. Dr. János Gál**

Founder and Head of the Department  
of Exotic Animal, Wildlife, Fish and Honeybee  
Medicine, University of Veterinary Medicine

### **ENDO- AND ECTOPARASITES ON THE PHEASANT FARM**

I have been involved in game health management for several decades. In Hungary, I also serve as the attending veterinarian for major pheasant farms. My team and I have clarified the pathogenesis and disease mechanisms of numerous conditions (e.g., viral enteritis of pheasants and partridges), and we have described previously unknown diseases, including the vaccinable viral proventriculitis of pheasants.

I spent almost one and a half years in Africa studying the health of antelopes, wild birds, and pheasants. As a hobby, I study the arachnofauna of North Africa and the Middle East, and my colleagues and I have described two spider species previously unknown to science.

In addition to holding a doctoral degree from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, I have been a full member of the European College of Zoological Medicine since 2009. I have established professional collaborations with prestigious universities in China (College of Veterinary Medicine, Huazhong Agricultural University) and the USA (Purdue University, College of Agriculture) in the field of game health.

As a co-organizer of the domestic small game management conference, I have supported the dissemination of game health knowledge to the professional community from the very beginning.

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## **Csaba Hári**

Founder of Nádberki Hunting Kennel

### **THE HUNGARIAN SHORTHAIRED VIZSLA - FROM PUPPY SELECTION TO YOUNG DOG TRAINING**

My love for dogs has accompanied me since childhood, but it became truly serious when, at the age of 18, with my parents' help, I received my first Hungarian Shorthaired Vizsla.

After completing my studies in environmental protection and game management, I immediately began my career as a professional gamekeeper. Alongside this, the training and handling of hunting dogs gradually took over more and more of my life — and soon became my full-time passion.

Together with my wife, we founded Nádberki Hunting Kennel in 2015, and since then we have dedicated our lives to this remarkable breed and to the education of hunting dogs.

Over the past decade, I have had the opportunity to work directly with nearly all of the most common Hungarian and international hunting dog breeds. Both my own dogs and those I have trained regularly achieve outstanding results in domestic and international competitions. Thanks to these achievements, I have twice earned the title of Master Handler of Hunting Dogs with Gold Wreath, an honor that I see not as an endpoint, but as an inspiration for younger generations to take up this challenging yet deeply rewarding vocation.

In recent years, we have been especially proud to see our own bred dogs succeed at the highest levels of versatile hunting trials — and most importantly, to perform exceptionally well in real hunting work. My primary goal is to modernize hunting dog training methods and to preserve and promote our national treasure, the Hungarian Shorthaired Vizsla, as a truly versatile hunting companion.

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## **Jamie Lenahan**

Rearing Manager, Cambrian Birds

### **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF REARING SYSTEMS**

I have been an enthusiast in the production of gamebirds and shooting since an early age. Starting out with homemade incubators and small numbers of eggs, I very much enjoyed the activity of incubation and rearing gamebirds, mainly pheasant, partridge and duck along with a few quail. Early results were always very variable! I found the whole process fascinating, and this would lay the foundations to a career in driven shooting in the UK.

Throughout my teenage years I volunteered at our local shooting estate, beating on shoot days and learning the trade of an English gamekeeper before attending Sparsholt College in the South of England where I completed a National Award in Gamekeeping.

This led way to becoming a professional gamekeeper across a number of shooting estates over a period of 16 years, which involved the production of pheasants and partridges to stock the shoots and managing the land in a view to produce quality driven game shooting.

I have been involved with Cambrian Birds for 9 years, starting out as Head Gamekeeper before taking on the role of Rearing Manager for the past 3 years. We currently run 8 commercial game shooting estates and produce our own poults to stock these alongside a game farm supplying day old chicks and poults to a large customer base.

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## **Dr. László Molnár PhD**

Veterinarian, Associate Professor and Head  
of Department at the University of Veterinary  
Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice  
Chief Veterinarian of the Clinic for Exotic  
and Wild Birds  
Member of the Slovak Falconry Association  
and the Game Management Section  
of the Slovak Hunting Chamber



## **THE IMPORTANCE AND PREVENTION OF BACTERIAL AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN CAPTIVE BREEDING SYSTEMS**

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I hunt in my home village of Perín, near the Hungarian border. I particularly enjoy pheasant and hare hunting with my Hungarian Vizslas and goshawk. I provide professional advice to pheasant breeders in the Upper Hungary (southern Slovakia) region and am also involved in the breeding of protected and rare grouse species, such as the black grouse, capercaillie, and hazel grouse.

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## **András Palkovics**

Associate Professor, Dean  
John von Neumann University,  
Faculty of Horticulture  
and Rural Development



### **PHEASANT MANAGEMENT FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE – THE EXEMPLARY CASE OF THE LEHEL HUNTING ASSOCIATION**

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My connection to pheasant breeding began in early childhood, at the pheasant farm and hatchery of the Tata State Farm. On my way home from elementary school, I would stop there almost every day to „help out”. Collecting eggs quickly became my favorite activity, but I was equally fascinated by the sight of chicks hatching from eggs inside the enormous La Nationale incubators.

I continued my studies at Gödöllő University, and my love for pheasants accompanied me all the way through to my PhD in Keszthely. Today, I teach at the university and, in my free time, enjoy clay pigeon shooting.

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**Lóránt Szabó**

Head, Artificial Intelligence Knowledge Center,  
Neumann János University

**THE ERA OF PRECISION WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT: AI-BASED DECISION  
SUPPORT FROM POPULATION CONTROL  
TO ANIMAL WELFARE**



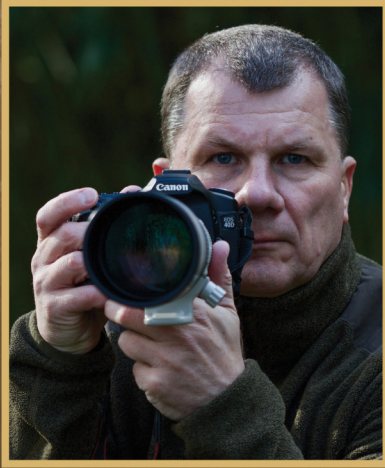
My presentation aims to demonstrate how the technological knowledge we have proven in industry can be applied to modernize wildlife management.

Although our center primarily develops software for industrial partners, such as the automotive and robotics sectors, this expertise is directly transferable to wildlife management. The image-processing algorithms we develop for autonomous vehicle perception are ideal for drone- or camera-based population monitoring. Similarly, our anomaly-detection models, used in medical diagnostics, can help detect early behavioral signs of disease in wildlife populations.

Furthermore, our experience in production line optimization can support data-driven planning in habitat management and wildlife damage mitigation. This technology transfer is already underway: we are active in agriculture and animal husbandry, including a project on an ostrich farm, and we maintain formal collaborations with several animal parks and environmental organizations to promote animal welfare and sustainability.

With my background in automotive engineering, I emphasize practical solutions: our developments must address real, field-based problems. Our goal is to leverage industry-proven innovations as a bridge to the practical implementation of “Intelligent Wildlife Management.”

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## László Szendrei

lecturer at the Department of Nature Conservation Zoology and Wildlife Management of the University of Debrecen, Wildlife Management Specialist of Nyírerdő Zrt., and Vice President of the Hajdú-Bihar County Branch of the Hungarian Hunters' Chamber



## ANALYSIS OF PHEASANT REARING TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR EFFICIENCY

As a university lecturer, one of my earliest research topics was the analysis of pheasant-rearing technologies, the methods of release for hunting, and the evaluation of rearing efficiency. Later, my PhD research also focused on wild-living pheasant species. Currently, I am involved mainly in the training of wildlife management engineering students at the university, but I also teach ethology in other programmes.

During my ten years on the board of my hunting association, I oversaw pheasant rearing at the Vámospércs Farkasvölgye Hunting Association, which provided an excellent opportunity to connect theoretical knowledge with everyday practice. In my free time, I feel most at home in nature; besides hunting, wildlife photography, fishing, and mountain biking offer me true recreation.

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**Will Horner**

sales & hatchery Manager,  
Cambrian Birds

**AN EXPLANATION AND GUIDE  
TO UK DRIVEN SHOOTING**



From an early age I have always held a burning passion for the countryside and indeed country sports. I am happiest when I have a gun or fishing rod in my hand and a dog by my side. My interests in shooting started to develop more intensely when, around the age of 14, I started incubating pheasants and partridges – all be it on a small scale. This led into starting my own driven pheasant shoot which I successfully ran for 13 years. This laid strong foundations for a career in producing gamebirds for driven shooting and indeed running those shoots.

In my late teenage years I attended the Royal Agricultural University where I studied a BSC (Hons) in Land Management. As part of my course I wrote a dissertation which focussed on Grey Partridges – a bird to which I owe much of my interests in shooting. Post graduation I worked as a Land Agent for a short while but always had the desire to be involved with gamebird production. It was through this decision that I found Cambrian Birds.

I have worked at Cambrian Birds for the past 9 years. Through that time I have helped the company to grow into a powerhouse within the UK shooting industry. I am now in charge of all the company sales of; day old chicks and poults as well as all our shoot days – of which we run around 500 per season between our 8 hunting estates. I also run our main hatchery and I have a complete fascination (some would say obsession!) for the science of incubation and hatching. We now produce around 2.2 million gamebirds per year for customers and our own estates. I very much enjoy working closely with our egg suppliers worldwide as well as keeping our own UK based closed flock of around 15-20,000 breeding hens.

In the winter months I can be found hosting clients on shooting days across our estates. And at the same time making firm plans for the following breeding and shooting seasons.