Redbone Celebrity Tournaments Establishes Redbone Perpetual Trust to Benefit CF Research Berbecker Scholarship Fund Bequeaths \$150,000

By Daniela Woody

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Over 17 years ago, after presenting the awards to the winners of the Baybone Celebrity Tournament at Ocean Reef Club in North Key Largo, there was a celebratory gathering toasting the successful event with a few libations at the Burgee Bar. Fishing in his first Redbone event, Brower Moffitt of West Palm Beach, Florida and Captain Gary Ellis, Redbone's co-founder, were having a winning streak as a team on the pool table. In their ongoing conversation Brower told Gary he might have a way of supporting the effort to fund cystic fibrosis research and it would need to be discussed at a future date.

At a "formal" meeting Brower explained the possibility of receiving a grant from his family trust that was established by his father and grandmother, The Berbecker Scholarship Fund. One of the requirements of the trust was any grant funds must go to an educational or medical organization in the state of Florida. After two years of waiting to find an appropriate research program the University of Florida announced plans for a cystic fibrosis genetic study at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida. This opened the door for Brower's family foundation to donate \$125,000 to that study. Brower and Gary drove to Gainesville to personally present the check to the research doctors. Today, the CF Center at the University of Florida is accredited by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The CF Foundation accredits and provides partial funding for interdisciplinary pediatric and adult cystic fibrosis care centers nationwide. Staffed by dedicated professionals, these centers provide specialized CF care. Each center undergoes thorough review by the CF Foundation's Care Center Committee before it receives accreditation and funding. This review for accreditation occurs every year.

Care centers also participate in CF clinical research and work to educate healthcare professionals and families about CF and the care people living with the disease require. Data from people with CF is collected for the national CF Foundation Patient Registry, which serves as a rich resource for CF health care providers and CF researchers to track the health of people living with CF in the United States.

The original donation set a precedent for The Berbecker Scholarship Fund to make annual donations, totaling to date over \$1,400,000 to the national Cystic Fibrosis Foundation research programs.

In 2013, the Redbone, Inc. and the Berbecker Scholarship Fund established the Redbone Perpetual Trust, which will provide a never-ending source of revenue to help support the research that



Gary Ellis and Brower Moffitt.

will ultimately lead to a cure for cystic fibrosis. The \$112,500 capital portion of the Redbone Perpetual Trust gifted by The Berbecker Scholarship Fund will remain intact and the accumulated interest income will be used solely for the designated purpose of helping fund scientific research aimed at curing cystic fibrosis. The establishment of the Redbone Perpetual Trust represents a significant step toward securing the future of cystic fibrosis research and assuring Redbone supporters that their donations will keep giving well into the future.

The Redbone Perpetual Trust is another opportunity in which Redbone assures the generosity of its donors is felt for many years to come and that the work doesn't stop until there is a cure for cystic fibrosis and to continue to improve the quality of life for people living with the disease. At press time, the Redbone Perpetual Trust has a principal amount \$140,000.

Redbone has also committed a donation of \$1,500 for each set sold of the 25th anniversary Redbone Limited Edition 3 rod sets produced by Thomas & Thomas Fine Fly Fishing. These handcrafted fly rod sets, either saltwater or trout series, priced at \$3,500 are limited to 25 numbered sets of each and are contained in a handsome leather carry case. Of this gift, \$1,000 is dedicated to the Redbone Perpetual Trust and \$500 to the continuance of the administrating and promoting Redbone fishing tournaments worldwide.

The purpose of the Redbone Perpetual Trust is to accept gifts, holding the principal in perpetuity to generate income that will be used as a source of funding for Redbone's mission to "Catch The Cure" for cystic fibrosis.