



from our president...

What a year it has been! After several months of the unknown about Covid, 2021 and vaccinations allowed us to gently creep toward normalcy and gather together outside. Seeing your smiling faces, not behind a mask, was wonderful.

Many of us are still hunting and enjoying yet another fall with healthy numbers of grouse, woodcock and waterfowl. Did I mention how nice retirement has been as well as the generous number of hours we spent in the woods with our dogs?

Our chapter currently has a record number of members, an amazing crew of trainers, dedicated board of directors and endless volunteers. We are very grateful to have you! Training and Testing last year was a bit overwhelming, like everything else Covid. Thanks to so many folks who stepped up to support these events, they were better than ever.

Yankee Chapter Annual Meeting

As per our bylaws, the chapter's annual meeting is held the first Sunday of the new year, so **January 2, 2022** is the date! For the safety of our members, we decided another Zoom Meeting would be best. Watch for details in this newsletter, on FaceBook, and by email.

Thanks for voting!

You recently received a request to vote for a bylaw change. The title Director of Promotions/Publications will change to Director of Communications as approved by our membership vote. As you all know technology and social media is very much a part of our lives. The Director of Communications will oversee the website, newsletter, social media, test brochures and emails to membership.

Yankee Chapter elections 2022

The following is a list of chap-

ter officers and directors up for election and the chapter members running for these offices. We always welcome members to step up to help our chapter. We are going to start an "understudy" program to help our officers and directors with their tasks. Again, we are welcoming volunteers to help us with our jobs. Please let me know if you would like to help.

President - Patti Carter, running for re-election

Secretary - Kathleen Weller, running for re-election

Director of Training - Blaine Carter, running for re-election

Director of Communications - Brian Pike, running for election

Director of Youth Development - Jason Carter, running for re-election

Yankee Chapter Officer and Director changes

It's been an interesting year for our chapter mechanics. Wanted to update our membership on where the Board stands going into 2022. Here are the updates:

--Nick Racioppi resigned as Vice President. Thanks, Nick, great job!

--Nancy Anisfield has been appointed to complete Nick's term as VP.

--Will Beck resigned as Test Secretary. Thanks, Will, awesome job!

--Nick Racioppi was appointed to complete Will's term.

--Mike Rinaldi resigned as Treasurer. Incredible job, Mike!

--Sarah Franklin has been appointed as Treasurer to complete Mike's term.

--Kathleen Weller is adding Membership Coordinator to her Secretary duties. Thanks to Sarah Franklin for helping our Treasurer with this duty.

--Working with the new Director of Communications will be Melissa Knutson, Judie Bayles, and Nancy Anisfield.

upcoming events

Yankee Chapter Annual Meeting
January 2, 2022 (virtual)

NAVHDA Annual Meeting
January 28-29, 2022
Ontario, California

Test Entry Postmark Date
February 15, 2022

Indoor Training Clinic
TBA

The dedication of our retiring Board members has been amazing. You may need to read twice to keep up. The good news, I am still your president, well, at least till election. The other good news, the average age of our board has decreased at least a decade!

NAVHDA International

The 2022 International Annual Meeting is being held in Ontario, California. There are motions submitted and will be discussed by membership in attendance, chapter delegates and NAVHDA's Board. Find these on page 3 in this BDE. We will be discussing them at our meeting on January 2nd.

-- Patti



yankee updates and info

hunting season

We hope everyone had a safe, successful hunting season and would like to thank all the ethical hunters in our chapter.

As ambassadors for the Yankee Chapter, we strive to set a standard for protecting our resources and exemplifying the best in responsible hunting. Yankee is a class act. We don't need to hedge the rules and regs to revel in the delight of our bird dogs and the hunt.



membership dues & info!

If you haven't paid your dues for next year, now's the time! Yankee Chapter Secretary Kathleen Brandt Weller is our new Membership Coordinator.. Please send your renewals to her:

Kathleen Weller
39 Lisbon Road
Brunswick, ME 04011

katred07@gmail.com
865-274-6843

director of communications

Many thanks to all of you who voted in a timely manner to approve the amendment to our Bylaws changing the name of the Director of Promotions/Publications to Director of Communications. Forty-five votes were received, unanimously approving the amendment.

As explained in the email, the name change will keep the Chapter's leadership structure and responsibilities in sync with their descriptions in the Bylaws. The Director of Communications will now oversee the website, social media, test brochures, newsletter, and email communications to the membership.

Working with the Director of Communications will be Misi Knutson on social media, Judie Bayles on test brochures and emails, and Nancy Anisfield on the newsletter. Brian Pike will continue to serve as the Yankee Chapter webmaster.

yankee calendar 2022

The following is a tentative calendar of Yankee Chapter events, subject to approval by the membership.

- Jan 2 Annual Meeting (virtual)
TBA Indoor Clinic
Apr 23 Training Clinic - Dresden
May 14 Vermont Clinic - Hinesburg
May 21 Training Clinic - Dresden
June 4 Pre-Test Clinic - Dresden
June 10-12 Yankee Spring Test
July 16 Water Clinic - Burham
Aug 27 Pre-Test Clinic -Bowdoinham
Sep 9-11 Yankee Fall Test

from our Test Secretary...

Test entries must be post-marked no earlier than February 15th. Please read the Test Entry Rules carefully and be sure to send your entry form and check together. If either are missing, your entry will not be processed.

Dogs entered must be NAVHDA registered. Owner and handlers must be members of NAVHDA International. These numbers must be provided or the entry will not be processed.

It's also important that you make sure all the information on the entry form is accurate, and that includes spelling! The Chapter can be fined for errors in the entry information and/or lack of dog or owner/handler NAVHDA registration numbers.

We try our best to accommodate everyone who wants to test and the day they prefer to run. Because we receive so many test entries, acceptance in a test is based on a first come, first served basis, taking into account an accurately completed entry form and inclusion of the test entry fee.

Please call or email with any questions! -- Nick Racioppi
feathersfins@comcast.net

upcoming elections

Five positions are up for election this year. Below you will see the slate of officers and directors proposed by the Board. If anyone would also like to run for any of these positions, please let us know! The elections will be held at the Yankee Chapter Annual Meeting.

- President - Patti Carter
Secretary - Kathleen Brandt Weller
Director of Training - Blaine Carter
Director of Youth Development - Jason Carter
Director of Communications - Brian Pike

help!

The Barking Dog Express needs you! Aspiring journalists or digital content creators -- if you're interested in gathering or writing hunting or bird dog news, let us know! Also, if someone out there might be interested in putting together the newsletter, let's talk! Various formats or programs can be used, with as much or as little creative input as you'd like. -- Nancy Anisfield, anisfield@mavt.net, 802-233-9158.

yankeenavhda.org

Visit the Yankee Chapter website for training info and videos, newsletters, forms, photos, and more. Follow the Yankee Chapter on Facebook and Instagram, too!

THANK YOU!

The Yankee Chapter is very lucky to have so many generous, thoughtful members. Some give their time; others give donations that help our programs. We'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to the following members for their wonderful support:

- Dan Riley for his special donation to the KK/BB Fund.
- Troy and Susan Crane for their generous donation to our youth programs.
- Mike Healy for donating hunting and fishing items to be raffled in 2022 with proceeds going to the KK/BB Fund.
- John Petros for donating 300 rounds of 20 gauge ammo to our NAVHDA Apprentice Hunter Program camp.
- Peter Bako and Donnie Lucas for their contributions to our youth programs.
- Terry Wilson and the Ugly Dog Hunting Company for donations to the youth programs.



The 2022 Annual Meeting will be held on January 28-29, in Ontario, California, hosted by the Inland Empire Chapter. Along with the Delegates Meeting, Panel Discussions, NAVHDA Business Meeting, Judges Q & A, Social Hours, Banquet, and Raffles, speakers will include David and Karin Holder from Raised Hunting, Mark Olcott DVM, outdoor writer Jim Matthews, and Scott Linden from Wingshooting USA and Upland Nation. For more information visit <https://www.navhda2022.com/>.

The Potomac Chapter has made the following two motions to be discussed at the meeting. Prior to that, we will discuss them at the Yankee Annual Meeting.

1. Motion to require a 4 in Invitational field search to attain a Versatile Champion title.

“Currently for a dog to earn a VC title the dog must get a 4 in pointing, nose & desire, but only a 3 in field search. We feel that an excellent field search (above 76%) should be a minimal expectation to achieve a VC title. Field Search is the cornerstone to an elite gun dog and earning a 4 in field search should be required.”

2. Motion to require a 4 in the Utility Test field search to receive a Prize 1.

“Currently for a dog to earn a Prize 1 they must get a 4 in duck search, pointing, nose & desire, but only a 3 in field search. We feel the field search is equally as important for a versatile dog as the duck search, and quite possibly more so. Equal scoring weight of a 4 should be required on both the duck search and field search to attain a Prize 1.”

December 4, 2021

from: **Betty Blackman**

We'd like to share this with everyone, especially those of us who had a good chuckle watching Bentley in his life jacket when he had problems swimming.

Sir Bentley retrieved 2 geese this morning. One from Back River, a bay down in Boothbay Harbor. Donie put a second shot into the goose in the water. Then he sent Bentley out to retrieve it, which he did. This was the second goose he had to swim for, this one down over a steep embankment about 15 ft straight down. The goose was about 20ft out. Bentley retrieved the goose to Donie. Donie had gone down there, he was going to bring the goose up, Bentley had other plans .. nope he was bringing it to me .. and he did.. I laughed. I was some proud if him. My dog -- everyone laughed at me because I had a life jacket on him in the beginning! As I told everyone, it was a tool.... what a great Versatile dog he has become.

October 14, 2021 from: **John Ebel**

Now that the test season has past and hunting season is upon us, I wanted to thank you again for the great Yankee Chapter training sessions I attended. I found the water session in July to be especially helpful. Following the step-by-step advice I received from the fellow handling the live duck search resulted in some real breakthroughs in my dog's performance...

In the fall VDD HZP, my DD Elyse vom Altmoor (aka Moxie) performed extremely well at her water work. ...Fast forward to her second HZP in PA, she excelled across the test with a great passing score of 191. A lot of that was due to what we learned at Yankee and seeing what other dogs were capable of. I conclude that It takes a community to train a versatile gun dog. We look forward to next training season, though not toooooo soon. Would like hunting season to drag on a bit.

Cheers and wishing you good hunting and good companionship.

Regards:
John Ebel

Training While Hunting ?

by Blaine Carter

For me, and most likely, most of you, a hunt is a constant training opportunity. It's kind of proofing your past training season, exposing your weaknesses, the "holes" in your training. For instance, to get a dog to hunt with you and for you, comes from your dog's inherited genetics, but also your many hours of working together as a team. Think about your runs in the field and your dog's responses to your voice or whistle commands. It most likely will reflect this fall's hunt.

An independent search may be the route to take-outs and chasing game. If you've trained your dog to stop to the sight of a bird or a flushed bird, you'll be better able to handle your dog and get a safe shot at the bird. This fall, Willa started breaking on the shot because it became hard for me to control the break and shoot. Safety became an issue also. Safe shooting of the bird comes from a strong point and the obedience that follows. I can correct it during the training season but it doesn't help the hunting season. So what should we do in these situations? I chose to let my partner shoot and I corrected the break and my training issue during the season, not waiting till next spring.

The Maine woods have been very generous this year with a healthy population of grouse to hunt. For those of us hunting over dogs, wing shots were a challenge early due to foliage and the fact the birds stayed deep in the woods eating mushrooms. I always respect the grouse's ability to escape, whether through flight or sneaking away into the thicket. Our dogs, both young and old, need to learn to control their emotions for a safe and enjoyable hunt.

Training while hunting. I heard many successful stories this past season of limits of grouse. Sadly, I also heard stories of multiple limits taken illegally. If you limit out early, there is so much training that you can do while still hunting grouse. Start out by scouting new covers. You and your hunting partner can work on steadiness to wing and shot. No, you do not have to shoot the bird for your dog to learn. Nothing is better than training on wild birds, especially our escape expert, the ruffed grouse.

Backing. If you are hunting with a partner, teaching dogs to back on wild game is far better than any set up situation at home because the anticipated flush. This is a great exercise if you have a limit of grouse and still want to continue working your dog.

Exposure. Younger dogs need to find game and learn chasing is wrong. I know we worry about dampening desire on wild game. When a pup learns to hunt with you and listen, the chances for a point becomes better. This also applies to backing, steadiness and the retrieving.

Keepah's story.

To help you out, my new pup Keepah, started the season pointing grouse, woodcock, rabbits, mice, porcupines and flying insects. I wish she'd been a little steadier on the porcupine. We worked through the different species and fine tuned her prey. My whoa command holds her on point till the gun goes off. If I shoot the bird she needs multiple come commands to stop her possession issues; heel and hold commands to complete the retrieve. She is light of foot and she is snake like running through the woods. When she hunts she sometimes forgets I am part of this game, and I will remind her she needs to listen. You can see I have some holes in my training that will need more work but with exposure to wild birds, she gets better and better.

Congratulations. Remember, we are stewards of the woods and as NAVHDA members we need to be responsible while hunting. Getting a limit of grouse over the dog you trained, having shot them on the wing, over a staunch point is quite an accomplishment. If by chance, Willa is still at my side and has marked the fall....believe me, the adrenaline is surging as I command "fetch." So, back at Camp Wetafukawee with friends, over a glass of bourbon and some grouse mc-nuggets, we share the day's wonderful stories and make a plan for tomorrow.

Again, I cannot express more strongly the benefits of wild game. I'd love to hear your stories and please feel free to call with training issues.



photo of Blaine and Willa by Waylon Lunn

yankee chapter showcase



clockwise from upper left...

Lukka

photo: Betty Blackman

Canine Dash Cam

photo: Bill Thomas

Dogs at the NMW Camp

photo: Sarah Turner Franklin

Feathers

photo: Joe Saltalamachia

Post Hunt Snuggles

photo: Misi Knutson



" not your normal chapter "
page 5

from our conservation partners, a few interesting Q's and A's

Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever

What is Precision Ag?

Precision ag technology is used to make a variety of agronomic management decisions on farms. Increasingly, this technology has become critically important in identifying underperforming acres within farming operations. Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever support agricultural producers by assisting them in understanding how their farm specific data can serve as a guide to identifying areas where management changes and conservation programs can improve the profitability of low-yielding areas. Changes that are implemented as a result of this analysis are beneficial for wildlife habitat, building soil health,

increasing water quality, and improving sustainability.

How is PF/QF's model different from other conservation organizations?

Why are chapters of Pheasants Forever completing nearly 15,000 wildlife habitat projects annually? They have the funds to do so. Unique among national conservation organizations, Pheasants Forever empowers its local chapters with the responsibility to determine how 100 percent of their locally-raised funds are spent. Chapter volunteers raise funds locally, spend



funds locally, but remain vitally connected to a national organization to help impact conservation on a state and national level.

Ruffed Grouse Society / American Woodcock Society



What is the RGS approach to conservation in order to increase forest habitat diversity through forest management?

The RGS/AWS model is founded on a "shifting mosaic" approach to restore forest health and improve habitat. Functionally, our priority is to implement wildlife-friendly, sustainable forestry across large compartments known as Dynamic Forest Restoration Blocks (DFRBs) that range from a few thousand acres up to large landscape level blocks. We will also work to support these conditions broadly across the Northeast region with our public and private land partners and supporters. Public wildlife management areas, state & federal forests, community forests, family ownerships, municipal watersheds, large scale timberland properties and land trust holdings can all play a pivotal role in this approach.

I'd like to hunt grouse outside New England. How do I begin to find a place?

Take a look at the various RGS magazine display and classified ads... once you've determined which state(s) you are interested in, contact the appropriate state or regional Department of Natural Resources. Phone numbers are available on the Internet, in the Conservation Directory at your local library or you can call directory information in the appropriate state capital city and ask for the DNR office.

yankee YOUTH!

from director of youth development jason carter

Yankee Chapter Featured Youth Member Jacob Haskell



Jacob Haskell, 16, of Sabattus, Maine is our featured youth in this month's Barking Dog Express. If any of you have met Jacob, you would agree, he is an amazing young man. Jacob has earned an International Youth Membership from our chapter for participating at our events and always being willing to help.

Jacob is an avid hunter! Please check out his Facebook Page to get a better feel about his hunting passion. He has trained his own hunting dog, Remington, and, together, they share many adventures. Jacob has attended Conservation Camp at Bryant Pond several times with our Kenny King Bob Bisson Scholarship. This past summer, he was Head Camp Counselor at NAVHDA's Apprentice Hunter Program and did an impressive job.

Jacob is an honor roll student at Oak Hill High School. When he's not hunting he's working hard in their Carpentry Program. Quoting his amazing mom, Jodi, "He's a super decent human being." We must agree!



I Spy...

Bob and Deb Brey sent in this photo of Tanna on point. Can you find the grouse?

GRUMBLE

Unscramble these four grumbles one letter to each square to form four ordinary words.

RYIDT

--	--	--	--	--	--

SINHVA

--	--	--	--	--	--

KNOPES

--	--	--	--	--	--

TWEHR

--	--	--	--	--	--

Print your answer here

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



New to hunting with versatile dogs, the youth asked the dog handler...

What is a New Years Resolution?

Something that goes in one year and out the other.

An iPhone and some fireworks were arrested on New Years Eve. What happened?

The iPhone was charged, but the fireworks were let off.

Grumble answers on page 10.

" not your normal chapter "
page 7

Dr. Barry Nolt is an optometrist from Edmonton, Alberta. "He has the knowledge and background in shooting sports to advise shooting enthusiasts on ophthalmic eyewear best for trap, skeet, sporting clays, handgun and even archery." Yankee member Sue Morton sent us this excellent piece on eye dominance and gun fitting. Reprinted by permission of the author. The first part appeared in the Oct/Nov/Dec Barking Dog Express. For more articles by Dr. Nolt, go to <https://www.drbarrynolt.com/shooting-glasses/shooting-articles-by-dr-nolt/>

by Dr. Barry Nolt

... Back to the skeet range and my scores had improved. I was shooting fifteens and sixteens; much better but still not great. Something was not right. One night we set the trap to throw straight aways only, as my instructor watched. The shot string was consistently high and to the left. This would suggest the stock was too high and needed cast off. Okay, now what?

His suggestion was a custom fit the stock, i.e. increase the cast off to bring the shot string to the right and cut down the comb to lower the point of impact of the shot string. I did not want to ruin the wood on my shotgun so I ordered a semi-finished stock from the states, installed it on my gun and started filing increasing the cast off and cutting down the comb.

Back to the trap, I was still high and to the left. I kept on filing and the stock was cut down to the size of a child's BB gun. Frustration was setting in. What was going on here?

My friend's wife, a clinical psychologist, had just started shooting skeet and was watching me one night at the range with my trusty file. Of course, she wanted to know what I was doing. I put my file down and explained my problem. She pondered the situation for a few minutes and offered a suggestion, "Barry, have you thought about plastic surgery to remove part of your face to make that gun fit?"

Back to my instructor, he thought for a moment and then asked if I had ever checked the point in impact from a solid bench rest. Ahhh...no. His suggestion was to sit down and sight in my shotgun from a rest; like you would do with a rifle. Under his guidance, on a calm night, I screwed in my full choke. Sighting down the barrel I touched off a few shots. I found out that night my very high end, Italian semi auto- sporting clays shotgun was shooting ten inches high and ten inches to the

left from my point of aim at 20 yards. It did not matter how much I filed the comb. This was a gun barrel problem. For skeet shooting this barrel gave me a built in lead, high and to the left. No wonder stations five and six low house were my easiest targets. I returned the barrel to the gun shop and they replaced it.

Back to the bench rest; the new barrel was absolutely perfect! The point of impact was dead on the point of aim. Happiness was setting in and my shooting improved again. If you watch a right-handed shotgunner (assuming right eye dominant and an accurate point of aim and impact) shoot straight aways, usually they tend to chip targets more on the left side. This indicates not enough cast off is built into the stock. The stock needs to be bent more to the right to align the aiming eye in line with the rib. The right eye is the rear sight of the shotgun. If it is off to the left, the gun will shoot to the left of straight aways, behind left to rights and in front of right to left targets.

Over the counter shotguns have no cast-off (neutral cast) and are stocked too high (not enough drop at the comb in my opinion). I assume this is related to accommodating the left-handed shooter? In Gene Hill's book, *SHOTGUNNER'S NOTEBOOK*, he states, "if you are a right-handed shot, give the bird heading right twice as much lead as you do if it crosses to the left." I believe this statement is related to the neutral cast issue. There are whole books written on shotgun fitting. Michael Yardley's book entitled *POSITIVE SHOOTING* is a great read.

Drop is more complicated than cast and the ideal drop depends on which discipline you are shooting. In trap, you need higher stock therefore less drop. For skeet and sporting clays, you want a flatter shooting gun, therefore more drop. To really determine the proper cast and drop you should hire a shooting coach/stock fitter.... Stocks that are adjustable for cast and drop are

available from most gun makers. You can also have your current gunstock retrofitted. I have had this done and it has worked out great for me.

So that is my story. If you are serious about shotgunning make sure your dominant eye is in charge and eliminate any possibility of CROSSFIRING with the Magic Dot.

If you buy a new shotgun, take it immediately to the range and bench test it to ensure it is shooting where you are looking. This is extremely important with over and under and side by sides. Very high end guns can be off significantly. Make sure both barrels have the same point of impact. If you are still having problems hire a shooting coach/stock fitter and follow their advice. They know of what they speak!

Remember the skeet league I joined? Well I won a prize in it: "The Bird Saver Award" It is a nice carving of a drake wood duck and it sits on my fireplace mantle. People often ask if I won that duck in a competition and I say "Yes." I never tell them I came in last!



A Farewell Too Soon

Reflections on the short but meaningful life of a special retriever

Last December I lost my beloved Labrador, Sunka O' War, too soon. My heart was torn apart as she endured the infection surging through-out her body. I embraced her for the last time as the fire in her eyes darkened into clouds. Before she passed on, we spent a few fleeting moments reflecting on our three years together.

I recounted how she had come into my life under the guise of a promise, and then became intertwined with my identity. Although she had heard it her entire life, I reminded her where her name came from. Sunka means "dog" in the beautiful Lakota language, and I added "O' War" to commemorate the Lakota warriors who once roamed the plains of my native Nebraska, where I developed my love for nature and its gifts. I told her how each person she met and hunted with was left with a remnant of those storied warriors of the plains.

We reminisced about our time together in Chicago. It was hardly an ideal place to raise and train a gun dog, but how we enjoyed many of the amenities of the big city. I explained how her enthusiasm for life led us to enduring relationships with other people and dogs who were drawn to her energy. Her name helped sustain my connection to Nebraska, and her presence filled the loneliness I often felt being so far from home. Sunka motivated me to battle through my own struggles adjusting to an unfamiliar but awesome city. As our bond developed, we fearlessly set out to explore waterfowling adventures in this new part of the world.

Although she was too weak to move, I whispered a few commands as we recalled her progress in training. I like to think that she was imagining Lake Michigan—her favorite training waters—or the manicured green spaces that became our practice fields as we prepared for the upcoming season. I smiled as I thought about how my pampered city dog had become a huntress of the plains.

“THE UNTIMELY PASSING OF A RETRIEVER IS NEVER EASY. HOWEVER, AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH GRIEF, WE ALWAYS HOPE TO TRANSFORM THOSE FEELINGS OF LOSS INTO JOYOUS MEMORIES.”



I told her tales of the weekends we spent chasing the migration up and down the Mississippi Flyway. I reconstructed our travels to Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa, and our most cherished hunts on the Platte River with family and friends back home. Then I recounted how, in her third season, fortune relocated us to Kansas City. Now in the Central Flyway, our proximity to home put us on more birds than ever before. Finally, before letting go, I whispered her name once more, *Sunka O' War*, and told her that our last season together was unforgettable, and that soon she would be free of pain.

After she was gone, I found myself looking for a familiar fire in the eyes of each dog I came upon, but it wasn't there. A void had been created without a solution to heal the Labrador-shaped



The author trained his retriever, Sunka O' War, in Chicago's green spaces before hunting waterfowl and upland birds across the nation's heartland.

wound in my heart. And I worried that I had left the promise of Sunka unrealized.

Then an outpouring of support began to flow from the people who had been touched by this special dog. This was my opportunity to harness the passion Sunka had for life. It was the gift she left me. I realized the void itself was the answer. It was time to create a new promise, and I welcomed a new pup into my life. I named her Nua Kohtopu, which means "my fire" in the elegant Comanche language. She is the new flame that stands beside me.

The untimely passing of a retriever is never easy. However, as we work our way through grief, we always hope to transform those feelings of loss into joyous memories. Great dogs leave us with so many treasures, experiences, and lessons, and we can harness those lessons to improve our own lives. While I can, mostly without tears, reflect upon the many adventures Sunka O' War and I had together, I take comfort in the gifts she left me. The more we share in the love of life, the better our lives become. This is her legacy. —Douglas Spale

Douglas Spale, an attorney for the US Army Corps of Engineers, practices conservation in both his professional and personal life. He enjoys pursuing waterfowl and upland birds with a dog at his side.

The following are excerpts from a couple of excellent articles on hunting and hunting dogs. Click the links below each to read the full article.

The Hunting Community’s “Meta” Problem

By Cyrus Baird, Senior Director of Government Affairs, Delta Waterfowl



“First, let’s talk about the good. ... At a time when every major hunting and conservation organization around the country is trying to address the hemorrhaging hunter numbers and work to establish mentoring networks to guide inexperienced outdoors enthusiasts, social media can be the community bulletin board for us to really begin to address these problems.

Now for the bad...As with anything on social media – there are always negative impacts associated with increased attention – and the hunting community is no different. From social media scouting and ‘hotspotting’ to sharing damaging content that creates in-fighting within our ranks, to developing a ‘keeping up with the Jones’ mentality that every hunting photo has to be a limit of ducks or a 170-inch whitetail deer – social media truly can be a double edge sword.

Those same hunting Facebook groups that work so well in connecting individuals together and creating lasting relationships can also create frustration and angst.... For every ethical and responsible hunter sharing their content across their platforms in a positive light, there seems to be no shortage of those who share disrespectful or distasteful photos with harvested game and describe experiences that break the law or generally show a lack of respect for hunting and the game they are pursuing overall...”

<https://www.huntingwire.com/features/df25fa02-4cbc-4498-9fb0-18622230f505>

Gregory Berns Knows What Your Dog is Thinking (It’s Sweet)

By Claudia Dreifus, published September 8, 2017 in The New York Times



“Dr. Gregory Berns, 53, a neuroscientist at Emory University in Atlanta, spends his days scanning the brains of dogs, trying to figure out what they’re thinking. The research is detailed in a new book, *What It’s Like to Be a Dog*. ...We did an experiment where we gave them hot dogs some of the time and praise some of the time. When we compared their responses and looked at the rewards center of their brains, the vast number of dogs responded to praise and food equally. Now, about 20 percent had stronger responses to praise than to food. From that, we conclude that the vast majority of dogs love us at least as much as food.

Another thing that we’ve learned by showing pictures of objects and people to the dogs is that they have dedicated parts of their brain for processing faces. So dogs are in many ways wired to process faces. This means that dogs aren’t just learning from being around us that human faces are important — they are born to look at faces. This wasn’t known before.

Are there practical uses to your research?

It can be useful for training service dogs. For two years, we collaborated with Canine Companions for Independence to study puppies slated to become service dogs. Most service dogs cost between \$20,000 and \$60,000, because they need extremely intense training to be able to do their future work. Even though these puppies are specifically bred for the task, a great many turn out to be inappropriate. Canine Companions wanted us to try to identify which puppies were most likely to succeed. So we scanned their puppies and followed up on them later. We found that the dogs who were the best candidates had more activity in the brain region that has the most dopamine receptors, the caudate nucleus. They also had less activity in the part of the brain associated with fear and anxiety, the amygdala...”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/08/science/gregory-berns-dogs-brains.html>

barking dog schedule

The Barking Dog Express will be published five times a year:

- Oct/Nov/Dec Fall Test Recap & Upcoming Hunting Season
- Jan/Feb Hunting Recap & Upcoming Winter Events
- Mar/Apr Annual Meetings Reports & Winter Recap
- May/June Training Season Issue
- July/Aug/Sept Spring Test Recap & Summer Issue

Be sure to keep an eye on Facebook for member news, on the Yankee website galleries for event photos, and on chapter emails for announcements.

Grumble Answers:

DIRTY, VANISH, SPOKEN, THREW

New to hunting with versatile dogs, the youth asked the dog handler, “WHAT’S THE POINT?”



NAVHDA INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS AND CONSERVATION PARTNERS



yankee chapter contacts

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Ugly Dog Hunting