



from our president...

April 22 was the Yankee Chapter's first outdoor clinic of 2023. If you missed it, you missed a lot of amazing training moments. Nearly everyone in attendance was asked to support some part of the event. It is a new concept the chapter Training Committee started last year and it's been a huge success. There were many many education moments scattered around the fields of the Green Point Wildlife Management Area in Dresden, along with hand-outs by PJ Rose.

The bird trailer and the equipment trailer arrived and prepped for the day. As Blaine greeted the many handlers and their families, behind the scenes work had already begun. UTVs were being unloaded from their trailers. Matt Lorello and his gunners were already training their dogs, preparing for the nearly 50 Utility dogs signed up for the day. Their shot chukar were to be used at several different remedial training stations organized by Dani Murphy and her team.

Natalie Peaslee, our all around helper, put the NAVHDA sign on the road. A map on the trailer explained the training sites. Bill Tracy greeted new faces that needed a few questions answered. Misi Knutson and Shawn Mowers handled registration and continued the welcome, explaining the plans for the day. A crew of many unloaded the equipment trailer, sending gear to their needed stations. Dani and crew prepped the very popular Remedial Drill Stations. Jason Carter, Tyler Bruce, and Casey Mowers headed to their fields. Jimmy Greenleaf and his pheasant tracking crew, Brian Pike and Steve Morse, educated the handlers about what was expected of their young pups. The Chukar on the Pole, manned by Bryan Champagne and Jason Hawes, was always a busy place to watch. Blaine and Misi Knutson worked with new puppies and their handlers, introducing them to the NAVHDA training table and placebo drills. Kudos to Will Beck and Rosemary Stanley -- our lead bird planters.

The atmosphere was contagious at this first event. I joined those smiling in anticipation of the day ahead. I was so proud of the dedication and hard work of so many. "What can I do to help," was the question asked most!

Finally, I cannot forget our Burger King, Bob Brey, and his sidekick Debbie. Jackie Hawes kept the kitchen well stocked. Yankee Chapter has a mandatory lunch break at 12:00. Yes, mandatory! It gives us all a moment to greet new faces or enjoy a story or two with friends.

Most miles logged at the clinic was Jason Carter with 19.8. Matt Lorello was a close second. Longest distance traveled was David and Jacquie Kuritzky with 322 miles. Best compliment was also from David Kuritzky, "Y'all rocked it!"

Again, if you missed it, you missed a lot! See you next time!

While all this training was going on, many of us slipped over to Green Point's big barn to watch representatives from Trout Unlimited educate a great crew of young people learning to tie their own fishing flies. Awesome job goes out to Philip Laperriere, our Director of Youth Development, for organizing this crew.

More education coming up soon from Yankee can be found on our yankeenavhda.org website and also in this Barking Dog Express. We are looking forward to continuing your hunting dog education. Did I mention we have a lot of fun too!

Welcome New Members

Scott Levesque
Taylor Forbes
Mike Saucier
Stephanie Fortin
Carolina De Morais Sarmiento
Jeremy Alexander
Mary Ann Folin
Holly Forbes
Matt, Gena, Cayden, and Ava
Lamontagne
Phil, Meagan, Steven, and
Emma Allen
Joshua Ray
William Clunie
Walt Bailey
Thomas Scofield
Kimberly Hauck
Lauren Keiser - Cooper & Ryder
John Joss



ycnavhda@gmail.com

www.yankeenavhda.org

The chapter website is a wealth of info and support materials from first aid to Yankee training sites to our photo gallery. Any questions? Contact our Webmaster, Brian Pike: bpikem@maine.rr.com

Upcoming Events

May 7
Test Prep Workshop

May 13-14
Aims & Rules Clinic

May 20
Training Clinic

June 3
Pre-Test Clinic

June 9-11
Spring Test Weekend

Treasurer's Update

The balances as of March 31st are as follows:

Checking \$14,176.15
Money Market \$39,366.85.

-Shawn Mowers

From our Director of Communications:

Send us your photos!
We're looking for training season and summer fun pictures to update our Facebook and Instagram pages
Please send Dogs, Kids and Family photos to:
ycNAVHDA@gmail.com
-- Misi Knutson

Yankee Test Update:

Test Secretary Nick Racioppi reports that as of April 16th, all our tests are now full and judges are lined up. Here's a list of NA and UT numbers:

June 9th - 10 NA
June 10th - 4 NA, 3 UT
June 11th - 2 NA, 4 UT

Sep 8th - 10 NA
Sep 9th - 2 NA, 4 UT
Sep 10th - 6 UT

Fall Waiting List - 2 NA and 15 UT

Yankee Chapter Calendar 2023

May 7	Test Prep Workshop, Brunswick
May 13-14	Aims and Rules Clinic, Dresden
May 20	Training Clinic, Dresden
June 3	Pre-Test Training Clinic, Dresden
June 9-11	Spring Test, Dresden
July 15	Water Clinic, Sugarfoot Kennels, Burnham
Jul 21-23	NAHP Camp, Brunswick
August 26	Pre-Test Training Clinic, Bowdoinham
Sep 8-10	Fall Test, Bowdoinham
Sep 13 -17	Invitational, Bloomingdale, Ohio

GUN RAFFLE! \$5 per ticket or \$20 for five tickets



Russell Estes has generously donated this Ruger .22 carbine rifle. Tickets will be on sale at clinics and through Patti Carter and Philip Laperriere. Only 200 tickets to be sold. Winner to be drawn spring test weekend (or as soon after as all tickets are sold). THANK YOU, RUSSELL!

Yankee's 41st Year at the Sportsman's Show

The Yankee Chapter has made a huge impact at the Maine Sportsman's Show for over 40 years. We have never missed an event!

Becky Morrell has retired from Sportsman's Alliance of Maine and her duties at the show. We wish her much success and hope to see her next year in the audience.



Patti Carter, Becky Morrell, Blaine Carter at this year's show.

NAVHDA International Memberships for Youths

Attention Yankee Chapter parents, friends and relatives If your youth shows interest in supporting our Yankee Chapter events, they should join NAVHDA International. The Yankee Chapter will reimburse their membership cost. (It's far more efficient if you supply NAVHDA International membership details.)



New Decals!

We've updated the logo and ordered new decals. Hopefully they will be in before the May 20th clinic. No charge to Yankee members -- proudly display them on your car, truck, cooler, gun case, kennel, house, and forehead!

Training Clinics -- May 20 & June 3 -- Dresden, Maine

Two more great training opportunities coming up!

- Keep your eye out for the email several days before each clinic with a link to our online registration.
- The clinics will start at 9 a.m. At noon, we'll fire up the grill for LUNCH. *Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.*
- When you get to the field, come check in, pay for your birds, and receive your running number.

What to BRING: What the weather will be doing is anyone's guess, so be prepared for everything from mud to bugs. Boots and layers are recommended. Don't forget to bring water, leash, and a stake or crate for your dog. You might also want to bring a canopy in case it's rainy or hot sun.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-295 to Exit 43. Go east on Route 197 through Richmond. Turn right onto Route 128. Go 1 mile. Grounds are on the right side. Watch for signs. More information about our training sites is available on our website: www.yankeenavhda.org.

REMINDER: The May clinic in Dresden has always been one of our most popular clinics. Be sure to sign up for your birds ahead of time. The June clinic is our Pre-Test clinic which means that dogs testing this spring will get priority for their field runs and water work. Nevertheless, there will be plenty of stations with activities for all dogs to work on retrieving, obedience, steadiness and more.

important notes!

YOU MAY RUN YOUR DOG IN THE FIELD OR WOODS WHEN THE CLINIC IS OVER, BUT FOR SAFETY REASONS THERE MAY BE NO GUNFIRE -- LIVE OR BLANK -- AFTER THE CLINIC HAS ENDED.

(Green Point is open to the public at all times. While we closely monitor our gunning during clinics and tests, once the clinic has ended there may be other folks using the grounds for bird watching, walking their dogs, etc.)

PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEAD OR STAKED UNLESS YOU ARE WORKING YOUR DOG IN THE FIELD, DESIGNATED EXERCISE AREA, OR AT DRILLS.



Spring Test Weekend: June 9-11

Spring Test weekend is almost here! Help is needed to make everything run smoothly, and working a test is one of the best ways to learn about the excitement of NAVHDA testing. If you'd like to volunteer to plant birds, set up the tent, be a go-fer, help with lunch, etc., please contact our Director of Testing, Tyler Bruce.

Test days will begin at 7 a.m. sharp. Handlers should be at the test grounds no later than 6:30 to have enough time to park, "air" their dogs, take a DEEP BREATH, and find the donuts and coffee before meeting with the judging team. Don't forget to bring lots of water for both you and your dog(s). There's not a lot of shade or cover at the Dresden field, so bringing a tarp or tent is a good idea if it's hot or raining, or both!

Friday is bring-your-own-lunch. Saturday and Sunday -- the 11th and 12th -- our grill will be up and sizzling with burgers and dogs and whatever else we can come up with. But even with the dedicated Yankee Chapter volunteers at the grill, there are lots of hungry handlers, field volunteers, judges and friends to feed. Please please please: Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to contribute to the lunch table!!!

To get the weekend started in typical celebratory Not Your Normal Chapter fashion, the Carters have invited everyone to their house for a lasagna dinner on Friday night at 6 p.m. (33 Simpson's Point Rd., Brunswick). After the test on Saturday, there will be a "no host" dinner at a restaurant to be determined. On test days, come watch the excitement and support the testing handlers.

Good Luck to All Testing Handlers!

Let's Make a Plan

The Yankee Chapter's first outdoor training clinic was amazing to watch and participate in. Our Training Committee put together what I would say was the best clinic we have ever done. In addition to putting together a great plan, the membership's contribution was huge.

That being said, there is always room for improvement.

As I watched different training stations and their remedial drills, one of the keys missing was timing. Handlers should expect the unexpected. We've all done a lot of training in solitude the past few weeks. The addition of gunfire, dogs, new smells and a wee bit of chaos can put a spin on your obedience. Most handlers were not prepared for their dog to make a bad choice. Timing is

everything. All eyes on your dog. A light correction can prevent a huge infraction. Learn to read your dog! Correct him when he's thinking about breaking. If he's standing next to you, a hands on correction may be all it takes to keep him steady throughout the utility field sequence. Learning to train a dog to change its thoughts or wants is to know better what your dog is thinking.

Chasing after bad behaviors with no preparation or forethought only causes confusion for your dog. If it is not clear to your dog what it was corrected for, you are wasting your time and everyone else's.

I want you to think about how your field work went last Saturday. What were your dog's weaknesses? We want to approach your drill or fieldwork

with the understanding of what may go wrong and how to best address it, if and when it happens. Let's be proactive not reactive. The better you explain your dog's level of training and your expectation, the better your training sequence will be.

We are fortunate in the Yankee Chapter to have many quality trainers more than willing to help. Never hesitate to share your expectations. We are here to listen and help you put together a plan. Let's grow together.

ASK THE TRAINERS





barking dog express
Yankee Chapter of NAVHDA

Ask the Trainers is a Yankee newsletter column where you send in your training questions and one or more of the chapter training experts will respond. Questions can be on any level of NAVHDA training or testing, or on general life with a dog (obedience). Send your questions to our Director of Training,
Blaine Carter:
mmkennels@myfairpoint.net



a note about training clinics

Everyone is WELCOME! That sounds obvious, but some folks may think that because we organize clinic activities and stations based on NAVHDA testing levels (Natural Ability, Utility Prep/Utility, Invitational), that you need to be testing to participate. Not true!

We use these levels to help determine where your dog is in its training and where you'll get the most beneficial work and advice.

Our "pre-test clinics" -- one before each test weekend -- do give dogs testing on those subsequent weekends priority in the field and water line-ups. But everyone is welcome, and there are always plenty of stations, drills, and time for a field run.

Testing in the NAVHDA system is an excellent way to judge your dog's progress and to give yourself goals to work towards. If you prefer not to test, however, or your dog is finished testing, our clinics are designed to improve all dogs' hunting skills and keep them tuned up between hunting seasons. Our training clinics are for all members and their dogs -- puppies to veterans!

**YANKEE CHAPTER
TEST PREP WORKSHOP**

BAD HANDLER

Come learn the difference between these two testing handlers... how one hurts and the other helps!




GOOD HANDLER

The Test Prep Workshop is a great chance to ask NAVHDA judges all sorts of questions...pick their brains and find out how YOU can help your versatile dog succeed on test day!

YANKEE CHAPTER TEST PREP WORKSHOP

Helping Your Dog Succeed on Test Day

Sunday, May 7, 2023 8:00 -3:00
Merrymeeting Kennels, Brunswick, ME

As many of us have learned after testing dogs several times, there are lots of ways we handle our dogs and ourselves during a test that affect its outcome. Practical tips can be picked up during training clinics, but often testing questions or situations just don't come up. Besides, we all know that a test day is very different from a training day. This workshop was designed to help handlers do the best they can to help their dogs on test day.

How does this workshop differ from a NAVHDA Aims & Rules Clinic?

NAVHDA Aims & Rules Clinics focus on the NAVHDA testing and judging system - on the scoring system, what judges look for, and what the elements of the test are designed to accomplish.

The **Yankee Test Prep Workshop** will focus on *handlers' actions and options* in the field and at the water. We won't be teaching any tricks or ways to "beat" the testing system. We will present practical and effective handling advice for both the Natural Ability and Utility Tests. The workshop is led by a moderator with a panel of Yankee Chapter members who are NAVHDA judges. There will be two handlers with dogs to demonstrate handling.

What's the format?

The workshop will cover **Natural Ability in the morning** and **Utility in the afternoon**, approximately three hours per session with a break in the middle of each. Participants can attend both sessions or just one. This is a people clinic, not a dog clinic -- you won't be working your dog.

The workshop is free of charge to all Yankee members. Non-members will be asked to pay \$10 and can apply that to a Yankee Chapter membership (\$20) if they'd like.

Participants should bring something to sit on. Full-day participants should bring their own lunches, beverages, etc.

BOOT TALK

Three hints for maintaining happy feet:

1. One piece elastic laces such as "Yankz" will eliminate the hassles of self-untying boot laces.
2. Until new boots are broken in, wearing two pairs of thin socks instead of one thicker one often minimizes bunching and rubbing.
3. Following the manufacturer's suggestions in terms of cleaning and treating your boots makes sense, and don't forget the tongues, D-ring, and hook loops.



" not your normal chapter "
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showcase: Yankees at the State of Maine Sportsman's show



" not your normal chapter "
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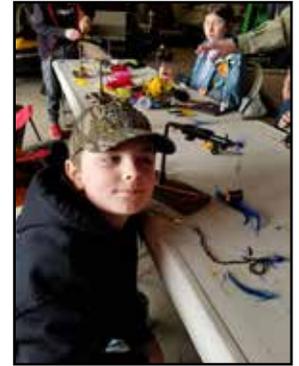
yankee YOUTH!

from Director of Youth Development Philip Laperriere

FLY TYING Clinic



Watch out fish...
The Yankee kids are
tying some awesome flies!



photos by Sue Morton

Gregory Ponte and Toby Levesque, volunteers from Trout Unlimited, held a fly tying clinic for Yankee Chapter youth during the April 22nd Clinic at the Green Point Wildlife Management Area in Dresden Maine. We had a good turn out of chapter youth and their friends participate in the event. Greg and Toby reminded the participants that feathers and fur from species such as partridge, ducks, and rabbits that we hunt with our versatile hunting dogs in Maine are common in many fly tying recipes. Utilizing these materials takes utilizing the game we harvest to the next level.

Each child was shown how to tie a fly, given hands on instruction, and were challenged to demonstrate what they had learned to tie their own flies. Augustine Letendre and Stirling Martinez were recognized for their ability to demonstrate what they had learned and produce creative examples of the wooly worm and wooly bugger flies that reflected proper techniques.

photos by Philip Laperriere

Augustine won a fly rod and reel for his red, white, and blue patriotic wooly worm; and for his black and orange wooly bugger Stirling won new material and tools to add to his fly tying kit. Iris Ray took home our third prize, a fly box with flies, for her excellent example of wooly bugger.

Thank you to the MDIFW and Keel Kemper for letting us use the barn at the Green Point WMA.



" not your normal chapter "
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How NAVHDA Brought Me to Texas A&M

by Abigail Hatch



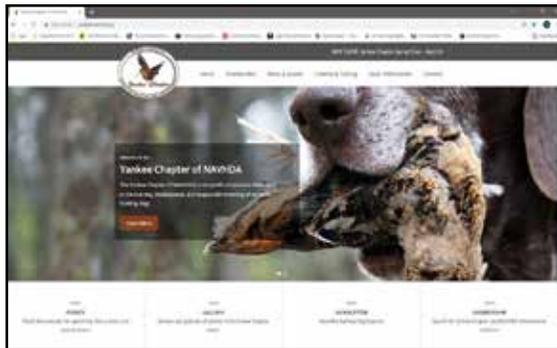
I am inspired by the work of NAVHDA, with the beginnings of it starting before I can remember. I have grown up in this community of incredible people and their dogs. My family has had five shorthairs, each unique in their own ways. They are hunting dogs at heart, but companions in the home. The most recent addition to our family was a spunky, sweet, and smart little girl named Ripple. I spent time with her, learning to teach, making mistakes, and adapting along the way. She not only gave me the experience of starting with a puppy, but she filled the hole in my heart that another puppy left two years ago. The love of a dog is special, but to have the connection with them built by training, working, and hunting is something I have seen that is unique to this community.

It has been the influence of NAVHDA that has pushed me, and will continue to push me, in my pursuit of higher education. Growing up with shorthairs, I knew that I loved animals, especially hunting dogs, and slowly navigated my way to figuring out I wanted to become a veterinarian. Recently, I committed to Texas A&M University to pursue this passion. I will be studying Biomedical Science as part of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2027 and will continue to study in their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. Texas A&M has one of the top veterinary programs in the world, and I am so excited to have the opportunity to pursue this education. To make this dream a reality, I decided to join Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets, where my schedule is much more disciplined, but results in the development of leadership, character, and skills that will carry me through my career.

I hope that I can integrate myself into the work of NAVHDA once I graduate with my doctorate. Working with sporting dogs is the ultimate dream. There is something truly special about sporting dogs and their owners from the veterinary perspective. Not only do I see that in my work, but in working and training with my dogs, who show their drive and desire to hunt daily. The level of care, health, and motivation of these dogs is inspiring and appealing on both a personal and professional level. I am incredibly grateful for the experiences given to me through NAVHDA, which revealed my passions and pursuits for the years to come.

International Memberships

Youths showing interest in supporting Yankee Chapter events should join NAVHDA International. Anyone wanting to handle a dog in a test must be an International member. The Yankee Chapter will reimburse their membership cost. (It's more efficient if you supply NAVHDA International membership details for the application and send it in, then be reimbursed.)



THANK YOU to Bill and Cindy Tracy for donating brand new helmets for our youth riders. Devi and Natalie took the new helmets for their first spin at the April clinic.

Events, training, photos and more:
www.yankeenavhda.org

Hackle Insights

by Nancy Anisfield

I was waiting at our vet's office with Prairie a couple of weeks ago when a cute old chocolate Lab with perky white eyebrows came in. Both dogs were on leashes and wagging. The Lab's owner and I let them greet each other, nose to nose. He then sat down next to me, and we let the two dogs continue getting acquainted. Lots of wagging and relaxed ears, no sign of aggression or worry. But both dogs had tufts of hair puffed up on their backs, just in front of their tails. It made me wonder why.

Hackles are the hairs that can stand up down the length of a dog's back. The technical term for them standing up is "piloerection." When it happens, it is caused by a reflexive trigger of a dog's sympathetic nervous system, usually when something startling, alarming, or exciting happens. Small erector muscles contract around follicles making the hairs stand up. All dogs have hackles, but some coats and types of hair make the standing up response more noticeable than others.

There's a whole range of situations that cause hackles to raise. Fear or aggression are considered most typical, but surprise, nervousness, insecurity or excitement also stimulate this physiological response. Play might also make the hackles stand up. The key to avoiding problems when hackles are raised is to look at the other parts of the dog. That will help you judge whether or not to react. In the case of Prairie and her new buddy, I firmly believe it was just a little nervousness or good dose of excitement -- vet office, new people, new dog -- that got her hackles slightly up. Friendly dog behavior, nothing to worry about.

Thinking about hackles, I remembered something I've often heard: hackles up at the shoulders means aggression, but hackles by the butt means nervousness. I asked Jason Carter his opinion since he recently published an article, "How to Read a Bird Dog's Body Language -- Becoming a Bilingual Trainer." He replied, "I've heard and seen this to be true. However, I look at it like a wagging tail. The tail itself can mean numerous things outside of happy. It's the posturing connected to it that speaks to the emotion. Take a weird object into the yard and watch the fear response of a young dog. They'll fluctuate between fear to aggression giving some insight. I'd think it's more about the level of fear and aggression. The more aggressive the taller and bigger the dog wants to appear translating in hair standing up front and back. Same with fear."

To read Jason's article:
<https://projectupland.com/hunting-dogs/how-to-read-a-bird-dogs-body-language-becoming-a-bilingual-trainer/>



Four Bills to Track in Congress

1. Recovering America's Wildlife Act

RAWA, with strong bi-partisan support, would help states conserve species of greatest concern, including ruffed grouse, sharptails, bobwhite quail, and greater prairie chickens. It would facilitate improved habitat and removal of invasive species with cascading benefits for wildlife, freeing up local dollars for hunter access priorities.

2. America's Outdoor Recreation Act

This bill targets road-use planning on public lands, improving permitting for outfitters and guides, expanding access to shooting facilities. It was introduced last year and is part of a possible foundation for a broader bipartisan public land and recreation package.

3. North American Grasslands Conservation Act

This Act would invest in rangelands research, create a national grasslands management strategy, and build a leadership council to administer and incentive-based conservation grant program. It was designed to work in a way similar to the North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989.

4. Farm Bill

Ongoing and renewing roughly every five years, The Farm Bill addresses everything from rural development and conservation to hunger prevention. It is responsible for how federal funds are directed towards private land conservation and forest management in programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in which enrolled farmers and ranchers are compensated for removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and planting species that will improve environmental health and quality.

The Bird Hunt

by Jonah and Noah Parker

The Yankee Chapter's Director of Youth Development asked a few of the campers from Yankee's NAVHDA Apprentice Hunter Program about their stories from last years hunting season. Jonah and Noah Parker shared these stories of grouse and woodcock hunting with their camp mentors. Both boys also went bear and deer hunting this season. We look forward to hearing more of their adventures.

Jonah:

I am going to tell a story about a hunting trip with a woman named Dani, and her dog named Ember. I met Dani at a cool summer camp I went to this summer. Before I could hunt, I had to go on a long drive to get to where we were hunting. But after a while, I got to the place with her. For this hunt, I went with Dani and her fiance, Kevin. And somebody else named Joe. Joe was a mentor, but it was my brother's mentor. His dog's name was Rosie. Dani had another dog, named Asha. We went into a forest with the three dogs, and it was pretty cool, even though there was a lot of walking. Multiple times we saw, heard, or (in the dogs' perspective) smelled. My brother and I weren't able to get a good shot at the birds, so we didn't get one. But even though I didn't get a bird, it was REALLY cool to handle my mentor's dog, and to be on my first real-deal bird hunt with a dog. The dogs were really friendly, and were well-trained. This was a new experience for hunting that I never had in my life, and I will never forget it. It was cool to see a bird fly right over my head. When the dogs went on point, that meant that they sniffed a bird, and there was (normally) one around. It was truly a great experience to meet Joe and to go hunting. So I thank Joe, Rosie, Dani, Ember, and the new dog who I got to meet, named Asha.

Noah:

Ever since the NAVHDA Yankee Chapter bird hunting dog training camp, I had been hoping to get to go hunting with my dog owner/trainer from the camp, and friend Joe Wadleigh. When I got the opportunity to go hunting with him again I was pretty excited. It also gave my brother the chance to go hunting with his trainer Dani. Dani's fiance Kevin also came hunting with us. As it turns out, Kevin had a lot of knowledge about bird hunting. We were going partridge hunting in New Hampshire, because it was on a Sunday and we weren't allowed to in Maine. We met in a parking lot and my brother went with Dani, and I went with Joe, while the rest of my family went to find something to do. Once we got there Joe and Dani let their dogs loose. It was much like me and my brother's trip bear hunting where the dogs would chase the bear up into a tree, except this time when the dogs spotted a bird they would freeze and point at it. We followed the dogs until one of them stopped moving, then as we got closer... FWOOSH! The bird took off with its propeller-like wings. I can only describe the sound of their wings as a mix of a helicopter and a box fan. We trekked on until the dogs spotted another bird. Of course the dogs spotted the birds before us because the birds only advantage was its camouflage. We carefully followed the dog's nose until we reached an old mossy log that had fallen down years ago. We continued searching until we heard the tell-tale FWOOSH. We continued hunting for a couple more hours with no luck. But it was a great experience to hunt partridge with dogs, and I look forward to doing it again in the future.



Dani Murphy, Ember, Jonah Parker



Noah Parker, Rosie, Joe Wadleigh

CLASSIFIEDS



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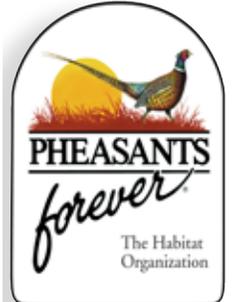
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 Yankee Chapter of NAVHDA

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Ugly Dog Hunting

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