

barking dog express

january/february



2024

yankee chapter
north american versatile
hunting dog association

calendar

January 7, 2024

Yankee Chapter Annual Meeting
Phippsburg Sportsmen's Club

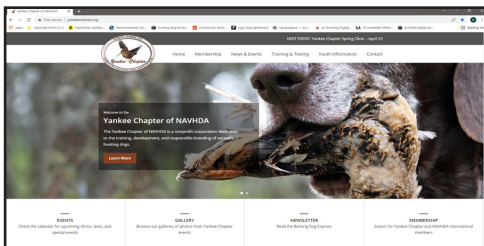
January 26-28, 2024

NAVHDA International Annual Meeting -- Troy, Michigan

February 17, 2024

Yankee Indoor Clinic
Hawkes Tree Service, Phippsburg

yankeenavhda.org



membership renewal

Time to renew! If you haven't done so already, now is the time to renew your membership to the "Not Your Normal Chapter."

Getting our membership roster in order for the new year helps us project our needs for birds, equipment, event planning and much more. It's also the best way to make sure you receive emails and info from Yankee.

It's easy: Just go to the Yankee NAVHDA website, select Membership, and click on Apply Now. This will bring up a simple form that you can send in to Sarah Franklin, our membership coordinator.

ycnavhda@gmail.com

Greetings everyone,

Hope Santa was kind to everyone! Dogs bring so much joy and health into lives. I am so proud of our members, how they welcome new faces and offer support. Becoming a member of the Yankee Chapter is a wonderful thing. We truly are a family of like minded folks that grow friendships and hunting partners.

Behind the scenes there's been lots going on. Your chapter Officers and Directors are prepping for the new year and the many events we have planned. We will discuss all these at our upcoming Annual Meeting on January 7th in Phippsburg. Lots of education planned this year for you and your dog, starting off with our Indoor Clinic at Hawkes in Phippsburg.

NAVHDA International's Annual Meeting in January is going to be held in Detroit, Michigan. As your President, I plan to attend and represent the Yankee Chapter as your Delegate. In this BDE you will find the Motions submitted by several chapters that will be discussed and voted on at that meeting. You can also read the Yankee Chapter's Item of Discussion on NAVHDA using Business Reply Mail envelopes for judges to return their cards to Central Office. Please review these ideas of improvement submitted by chapters prior to Yankee's Meeting.

Each year at that meeting, the host chapter asks for donations of a chapter basket to be raffled. We will collect donations to fill ours on January 7th. It will be a First Aid Basket and should be in high demand. Please bring your donation to our meeting in Phippsburg. I'll be sure it gets to Detroit! Thanks!

Election and volunteering: Offices of President and Secretary are up for election as are the Director of Training and Youth Development. Currently the Officers and Directors in these positions have expressed intent to run for reelection. We always need and welcome volunteers at all our events. Please contact any Board members and express your willingness to give back to our chapter.

Grounds -- Bob Brey is stepping down from his tractor and the many many miles spent mowing the fields of Merrymeeting Bay. He's definitely one of our chapters unsung heros. The chapter is working with Bob, Dick Dilley and our biologist Keel Kemper to set up a mowing plan for 2024. We are always looking for skilled labor. Thank you Bob!

The Yankee Chapter is well known for its very successful youth programs. Last July, NAVHDA's Managing Director, Kim Arnett, attended our Apprentice Hunter Program. Let's just say, she was very impressed! Hats off to all involved. Also, your generosity to our Kenny King Bob Bisson Fund supported several of our youth members with scholarships to the University of Maine Learning Center at Bryant Pond. Philip Laperriere will discuss plans for 2024 at our Annual Meeting.

Something new in the education department this spring. We will be holding a Game Luncheon in March at Sarah Devan's beautiful 1774 Inn on the banks of the Kennebec River. We hope to fill her barn to the rafters with NAVHDA folks. After you have shared your fall adventures, duck, goose, venison or grouse, Dr. Charles Ellithorpe DVM will answer your vet related questions, including a few educational demos. Date and details to follow. Don't miss it!

I hope to see you all at the Phippsburg Sportsmans Club on January 7th. We will start at 8 with coffee, donuts and stories. Meeting will start at 9 and run till noonish. There will be Door Prizes galore, so sign in at the door! Pot luck lunch will follow. Please bring a delicious casserole, side or dessert to share. See you all soon. -- Patti

Yankee Annual Meeting

The Yankee Chapter Annual meeting will be held at the Phippsburg Sportsmans Association on January 7. Coffee will be ready by 8:00 as the doors open and we gather together to tell our favorite stories from the past season.

Come early - stay late. As always please bring a dish, wild game if possible, to share at our Pot Luck Lunch following our meeting. Of course, there will be Door Prizes, so sign up when you pay your 2024 dues.

Your Yankee Chapter Officers and Directors will read their yearly reports. Please if you have any questions for our Yankee Board, this will be a great chance to ask them. Your Board has a long history of working together and encouraging everyone to become part of our Yankee Chapter family. Volunteerism in our chapter is contagious.

We'll discuss the Motions and the Items of Discussion that NAVHDA chapters have submitted to NAVHDA International. I would again be honored to represent our chapter as your Delegate at the NAVHDA International Meeting in Michigan and seek your input on these Motions.

This year Yankee will be holding elections for the following officers:

President
Secretary
Director of Youth Development
Director of Training
Director of Communications

If anyone is interested in running for these positions and/or would like more information about them, please contact Patti Carter at mmkennels@myfairpoint.net.

NAVHDA international annual meeting

The NAVHDA International Annual Meeting will be held in Troy Michigan January 25-27, 2024. For information, the meeting schedule and agenda, and a link to register, go to <https://www.navhda.org/annual-meeting/>.

The meeting will include a variety of great seminars on dog rescue, first aid, breeding, hunting and more. The NAVHDA Lady Gang will have a gathering. On Saturday, the Business Meeting will feature reports from the Executive Council, voting on the Motions, and more. Those Motions and Items for Discussion will be presented at the Delegates Meeting on Friday. (See pages 2-3 of this newsletter for details on those motions.)

The meeting will wind up with a banquet Saturday night including raffles, awards, and keynote speaker, Jeff Crane from the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

Indoor Training Clinic

The February training clinic will be held at Hawkes Tree Service, 78 Maine Road, Phippsburg. This indoor clinic is a great way to start the training season, tune up some basic obedience and skills, and get your pup back into the mode of working around other dogs.

Watch your emails and our Facebook page for further details.

Welcome New Member

Peter Murdock

From the Test Secretary:

- Entries for the Spring and Fall tests will be accepted starting January 8, 2024 and end on February 9, 2024 for the lottery drawing. Emailed/scanned entry forms or entry forms post-marked prior to January 8, 2024 **will not be accepted**.
- The lottery will be held on February 15, 2024 and entries received after the lottery will be placed on the waiting list if all test spots are filled by lottery entries.
- Yankee Chapter members will have preference in the lottery entry. All non-members will be placed on the waiting list unless the lottery entries do not fill the Yankee Chapter tests.
- Entry forms and fees paid by check need to be mailed to the Yankee Chapter Test Secretary:

Nick Racioppi
9 Pasture Road
Woolwich, ME 04579

- Our Test fees were increased for 2024.

YC Chapter Test Entry Fees:

Natural Ability -- \$120
Utility Prep Test / Utility Test -- \$135

- If you use PayPal for your entry fee and pull from the test or do not get into the test, the PayPal service charge will be deducted from your refunded entry fee.
- Once the database is loaded and handlers/dogs are assigned a testing date, the members will be notified of the running date or if they are on the waiting list. If the handler cannot make the date chosen, they will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list.

Please review the Test Entry Rules on the Yankee Chapter website.

motions and discussion items

Inland Empire Chapter Motion

Motion to provide a standard template website to all the chapters. Chapters would customize the website as they see fit.

Rationale: With the goal of membership growth this website template will help new chapters to get established and is also of value to established chapters as they improve their websites to better serve their members. Adoption of the standard template website by a chapter would be optional.

Inland Empire Chapter Motion

Motion to add a secure login discussion forum to the NAVHDA International webpage.

Rationale: This forum would allow NAVHDA members to exchange ideas, promote best practices and facilitate continuous improvement throughout NAVHDA. In concept, this would first be rolled out for use by chapter officers and directors, with separate forums such as Presidents and VPs, Secretaries, Treasurers, Operations Directors, Training Directors, Test Directors, and so forth.

Volunteer Chapter Motion

It is proposed that the NAVHDA Apprentice Judge Program wording be revised to allow the apprentice to step out of the judging team while the said dog or handler is running as referenced in Paragraphs 7 & 8 below then rejoin the team for the rest of the test day.

Rationale: The below requirements are excerpts from the The NAVHDA Apprentice Judge Program pamphlet. The apprentice, in some cases has spent time and money in getting to a remote test location and would benefit with additional dogs and evaluation by the added day of apprenticing.

7. Judges and Apprentice judges may not judge a test where a handler is running a dog that the Apprentice Judge or Judge owns or co-owns, or a dog that is owned or co-owned by any member of his/her immediate family. Any breach of this rule could result in the immediate expulsion from the Apprentice Program.

8. Judges and Apprentice Judges may not judge a test that evaluates a dog run by handler that he or she has a personal relationship with. This

would include, but is not limited to: husband, wife, spouse, partner, boyfriend, girlfriend or family members. Any breach of this rule could result in the immediate expulsion from the Apprentice Program.

Yankee Chapter Discussion Item

Judges should not have to cover the cost of mailing in their score cards. NAVHDA should provide "Business Reply Mail" pre-printed envelopes for our judges to mail their cards back to the Central Office.

Opinion: 1. Large envelopes and First Class fees can cost upwards of \$12.00. Judges give so much and often cover other costs for their time and travel. NAVHDA should not expect them to cover this cost as well. 2. Standardizing the method of mailing and the type of envelope will simplify the process and make it more reliable. This would ensure a timely return rather than some being via Bulk Mail, others Priority. 3. Providing envelopes with "No Postage Required" would expedite the return of the cards, avoiding delays when judges need to buy larger envelopes or have envelopes checked for correct postage.

great reading...

Yankee Chapter member Dan Riley recently had a story he wrote posted in the Ruffed Grouse Society's "Story Fair: Chronicles from the Coverts." Dan wrote about hunting season with his Brittany, Willow. Read Dan's story at: <https://ruffedgrousesociety.org/an-unexpected-journey/>

The Story Fair features lots of great pieces from RGS members. Check out all the stories at: <https://ruffedgrousesociety.org/category/story-fair-2023/>



CLASSIFIEDS



BUY! SELL! SWAP! or TRADE!

No charge for chapter members.
Send a photo and information to:
anisfield@gmavt.net

Looking Ahead

Reflecting on our Yankee Chapter training days this past year, I felt it was time to think what worked best for our chapter and its members. We host pre event Training Committee meetings at our home with 10 dedicated committee members. The energy is contagious! This behind the scenes work makes our training days efficient and productive.

Brian Pike, our technology guru, emails a sign-up form to all members the week of the event. The key word is "members," so keep your membership up to date. Once sign-up is complete, we create teams of trainers and mentors to work together during a few hours of the day. The Committee has received many positive comments as a result of this system. So much to learn at a Yankee Chapter training event! We will continue this moving forward into 2024. If I see you sitting around, you *will be* asked to help at one of our stations. It's a good thing!

Patti says my feeding regimen is a train wreck! Hmmm, she's correct. Dogs need structure and boundaries. What better place to start than mealtime. There is a whole lot of self restraint happening during those moments. So my personal goal moving into 2024 is to sharpen my dog's

obedience.

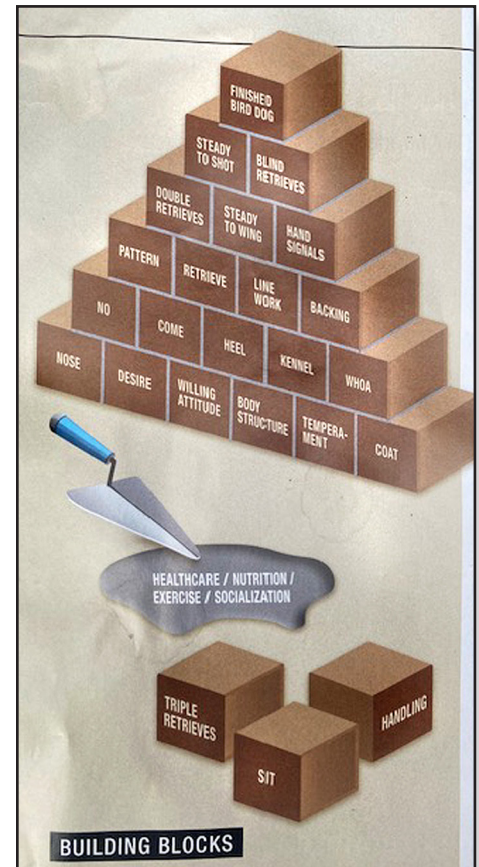
During the winter months, most of our training, whether we recognize it or not, is done inside. Whoa before going through the door. Heel out the door. Heel down the staircase. Sit, stay during a phone call. You can set a timer for 1 minute and increase. Down, stay while you go outside to grab some wood.

These are patience and confidence building drills. As usual, repeat, repeat as your dog gets more proficient. Dogs need to learn they are working with you and for you, not for themselves. Of course, Patti would say, treats are great performance builders. The sharper recognition of our commands, heel, come, whoa, stay, the better. This will transfer to the fields in the Spring!

The Building Blocks graphic on the right was created by Bob West -- dog trainer, NAVHDA judge, former President of NAVHDA, and writer for Gun Dog magazine. It's a great visual to see how the elements of our training stack up -- from foundation to finish.

See you in the New Year. We have lots of planning and training to do. Please become a part of it.

-- Blaine



yankee youth!



A Moment Locked in Time

by Courney Hagenars

At the tail end of an unusually warm and unproductive waterfowl season, a late November blast of Artic air inevitably coerced a wave of birds into central Maine. Abigail Hagenars joined her father, Courtney, and their DK, Johan Von der Merrymeeting ('Hans'), in a grain-cut corn field for an afternoon hunt. Abigail and Hans both displayed their skill progression on the first flock to commit. Four, plump, 'red leg' Black Ducks making their way up the adjacent river responded to the call and worked gracefully toward the decoys. When the small flock bunched together over the spread, Abigail rose and fired, scoring a 'Scotch Double', while her father took two Blacks of his own. Hans smartly retrieved the four birds in turn!



Shortly thereafter, groups of Canada Geese began to filter in. Courtney took two Canada's from the first flock, and Hans continued to gain experience by successfully handling a cripple. Yet another group of geese worked to the call and decoys, setting up Abi for a beautiful crossing shot where she cleanly folded the lead bird. Many unabashed cheers and hugs followed, while Hans pranced around us in that muddy field, and the evening sky was painted in vivid colors: a moment locked in time.

Raffle to Benefit Yankee Youth

My mother, Melissa Swanson made this quilt to be used as a raffle/auction item for the chapter. It's more fishing oriented, but I think someone in the chapter might love to have it (Barley is not included). Tickets will be available at the Yankee Annual Meeting, the Indoor Clinic, and the Yankee Chapter booth at the Maine Sportsman's Show. 200 tickets will be sold for \$5 each. The winner will be drawn as soon as all the tickewts are sold. Proceeds will go to the Yankee Chapter youth events.

-- Philip

A Bill for a Bill

What's going on in this photo?



You can figure out the sex of a woodcock using a dollar. Just hold it sideways under the bird, up tight to the bird's face. If the upper part of the bill reaches or is longer than the width of the dollar it's a female. If the bill doesn't reach all the way across, it's a male.



Member Spotlight

Get to know some "not your normal" chapter members!

Taking our cue from the Versatile Hunting Dog magazine "Meet the Membership" column, we've started this new BDE feature where you can learn a little more about some of us Yankees. Join the fun -- send in your photo and answers to these questions, and we'll put you in the next newsletter.

1. Name? Do you have a nick name?
2. Current Job? Dream Job?
3. How many dogs and what breeds?
4. What is something we don't know about you?
5. What made you join the Yankee Chapter?
6. If you could do one thing differently in your training what would that be, and why?
7. What is the oldest thing in your fridge?



Jacqueline Kuritzky

1. Nickname: Jacquie, J
2. Sr. Director Clinical Operations
Dream job: Rolling silverware in napkins at beach restaurant in Caribbean
3. 3 GSPs
4. I like to bake
5. David purchased a pup from MMK and we needed to meet and train with great folks
6. I am just the handler.....more structured in the training...notes, goals defined...
7. Sriracha sauce



Donnie & Kelly Lucas

1. Nicknames: Auntie and Skippa
2. Both bartenders.
Dream job: Retirement
3. 3 GSPs
4. Kelly was in an Oakhurst Dairy TV commercial as a kid. Donnie loves to lift weights.
5. We were introduced to GSPs by Bernie "Sharpshooter" and Timmy Moody and fell in love with the breed. We got our first, Kegga, 11.5 years ago and started training with Merrymeeting Kennels. The rest is history, and two more GSPs!
6. To be more patient and believe that our work will pay off/confidence. We've certainly learned a lot with the progression of training with each puppy, training with the Carters, and testing with the chapter. We look forward to continuing to grow in our training and confidence!
7. Well, it's not beer! Salad dressing (I may or may not have thrown out a bottle this week that was best by 2020).



Nathaniel Becker

1. Nickname: Nate
2. Contractor. Dream job: Teaching/mentoring

4. I'm an aspiring artist, but I'm not as good as Patti.
5. They welcome you in like family but also hold you accountable.
6. I need a better understanding of the line between being strict vs overly strict. "If you give them an inch they'll take a mile" doesn't work all the time.
7. Yikes...Partridge soup from October.



Dan Riley

1. Nickname: Dan, but Jason likes to call me Crash because of my high level of agility meandering through the woods.
2. SAHS guidance counselor, boys' tennis coach, Upward Bound advisor, Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership advisor.
Dream job: Full time bird hunter
3. I currently have a female Brittany and a female beagle.
4. I was almost 40 years old when I carried my first gun to go Bird Hunting! I hunt birds, rabbits, turkeys, and deer with gun, bow, crossbow.
5. I tried NAVHDA about 12 years ago when I bought my first hunting dog, Rosie, a Griff and ended up meeting Dick Dilley and worked with him instead. When I called Dick to tell him that I was going to get my second bird dog, he encouraged me to try NAVHDA again. Jason Hawes said you people were all right and Jason Carter knew a thing or two about a thing or two.
6. I think doing more fun activities to help Willow's daughter enjoy retrieving. If I am lucky, her prey drive will help her succeed so I will use chukar in combination with bumpers. Maybe even put feathers on the bumpers which I think we tried.
7. Sourdough starter that my wife uses to make homemade bread.



With napkins ready and stomachs growling, the Barking Dog Express introduces our new recipe and cooking page. Send us your favorite game recipes and game cooking tips. Original recipes are welcome along with favorites created by others. If you send a recipe from another cookbook or chef, please tell us who created the recipe or where you found it. Bonus points are yours for a photo of the dish prepared.

Easy Crockpot Goose Breast Vindaloo - sent in by Nick Racioppi

Recipe by Adam Berkelmans – *Harvesting Nature Course: Wild Recipes Cuisine: Indian, American Difficulty: Easy*
Servings 4 servings Prep time 30 minutes Cooking time 6 hours 30 minutes

INGREDIENTS

- 2 wild goose breasts, skinless, cut into large cubes
- 1 large onion (or 2 small), chopped
- 1 large tomato (or 2 small), chopped
- 6 tablespoons vindaloo curry paste (or 1 jar vindaloo sauce)
- 3 cups goose stock or water
- 2 potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 tablespoon butter
- Rice and/or naan bread to serve
- Cilantro and red chilies to garnish

PREPARATION

- Add the goose, onion, tomato, vindaloo paste, and stock to a crockpot and stir well.
- If you like your potatoes to be soft and falling apart, add them now, if you like them firmer, add them half-way through.
- Cook on the low setting for 6-8 hours or so. Take off the lid and increase heat to high for the last 30-60 minutes in order to thicken the sauce. Just before serving, stir in the butter to make the sauce nice and silky. Taste and add salt, or more vindaloo paste if necessary.
- Garnish with chopped cilantro and chilies (optional) and serve with basmati rice, lime wedges, and naan bread. Enjoy!

Patti's Sweet 'n Sour Venison* - by Patti Carter

In 1983, the members of the Northeast Chapter of NAVHDA created a cookbook. At this time, there were 600 members and 12 chapters. The Introduction of the book describes NAVHDA's objectives, how the versatile breeds came about and how our organization set goal to improve these breeds.

INGREDIENTS

1.5 lbs on venison (other meats can be substituted)

flour

vegetables of choice

diced pineapple

Sauce:

1/4 cup soy sauce

2/3 cup water

3/4 cup sugar

1/3 cup vinegar

Simmer sauce using corn starch to thicken, set aside. Doubling the sauce recipe works for me! Set aside.

Cube the venison and marinate in a bit of the above liquid.

Roll meat in flour and fry in oil of choice til golden brown. Set aside

Stir fry vegetables: celery, carrots, onions, peppers, zucchini (use your imagination).

Mix everything together, fried meat, stir fried vegetables, pineapple and thickened sauce. Serve with rice.

* This recipe has become a huge hit on our North Maine Woods hunting trips using the King of Gamebirds, the Ruffed Grouse. Enjoy!

Canine Dehydration and Hydration

by P. J. Rose

Tippet has been dealing with exercise induced hematuria (blood in her pee) when I hunt her. It's been going on for a long time. I have spent a lot of time logging incidents, reading and talking to my vet.

Recently we had an interesting discussion surrounding hydration in working dogs and it was centered around a study from a doctor at Penn Vet. She tested multiple ways to hydrate a dog while working and came up with interesting tidbits. In short, access to fresh clean water while they're working is still the best, but I have copied the text from our exchange below. Ideas like a little pet-approved broth or low-sodium chicken broth added to water to increase palatability, were interesting to me.

"Regarding our electrolyte discussion, yes, I went down the hydration rabbit hole! Since dogs don't sweat and lose electrolytes with exercise or strenuous work the way people do, access to regular water and small snacks (to boost glycogen stores with prolonged activity) are usually okay. It would be rare for a dog to become clinically dehydrated to the point they needed a balanced electrolyte solution, but you can combine small amounts of food and fluid on really long days or you could try one of the

commercially available pet broths in addition to regular water.

Dr. Cynthia Otto, Director of the Penn Vet Working Dog Center has been conducting hydration studies in US Customs and Border Protection Kgs, comparing three types of hydration strategies:

1. Oral rehydration with plain water
2. Oral electrolyte solution or OES (Hydrolyte®)
3. Subcutaneous fluid administration.

These dogs were evaluated while working in average temperatures around 95° to 105°F and relative humidity around 84%. Although the final analysis of the data is still being interpreted, their basic findings thus far is that as compared to oral rehydration with plain water or subcutaneous fluid administration, Kgs that received the OES:

1. Have shown no adverse effects to rehydration with oral electrolyte solution (OES),
2. Consumed about four times as much OES vs. plain water,
3. Maintained body weight, acid-base status, and
4. Had a statistically significant improvement in search performance

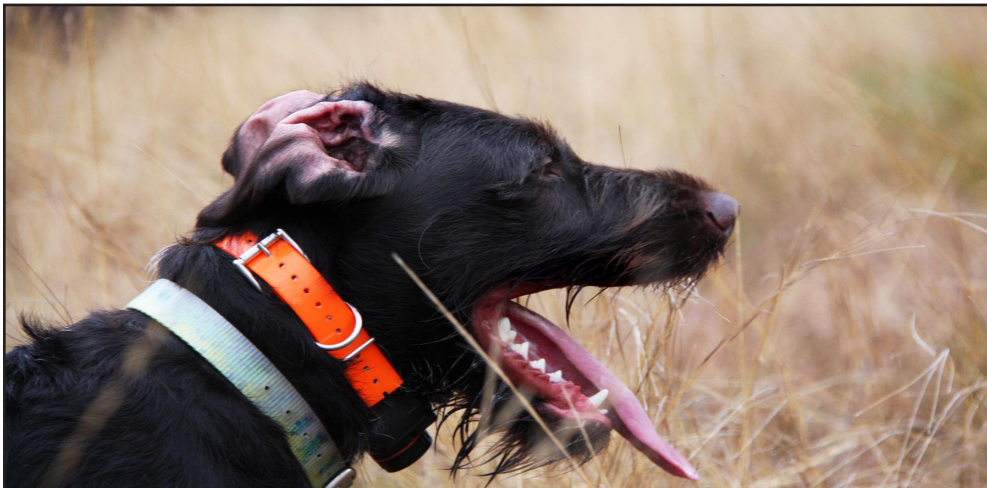
Interestingly it is even observed that simply adding a little LOW SODIUM

chicken broth to the water enhanced the flavor and palatability of the water enough to increase drinking and volume of water consumed by the Kgs.

So the benefit of the OES, may have only been increasing palatability for the dogs to drink more water and be better hydrated. Larger studies are being conducted to hopefully make definitive recommendations from this initial data.

So hydration (water), not really electrolyte replacement, is key for preventing heat-related injuries; therefore, the most important thing to ensure is that working dogs remain well hydrated. And that may simply be by having adequate access to fresh cool water as well as ensuring they have time to actually rest and drink.

Depending upon the Kg's discipline (eg. sports, law enforcement, search & rescue, etc.), it is important they have a work-rest cycle that is appropriate for the level of activity and environmental climatic condition they are working in. Oral rehydration has, overall, been shown to be more effective for maintaining hydration and should be your first line of defense for maintaining hydration."



The Great Tick Debate

The following is excerpted from a Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife blog by Laura Kintz on the relationship between tick proliferation and turkeys. For the full article see:

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/blogs/mdifw-blog/great-tick-debate>

Net Zero Host

A number of scientific studies have been conducted to investigate interactions between turkeys and ticks and determine if wild turkeys are likely beneficial hosts for deer ticks at any stage in the life cycle. The results were clear. Deer ticks rarely successfully feed on turkeys. While turkeys can and do sometimes carry ticks, it's not at high levels, and most are quickly consumed during preening prior to becoming engorged, limiting spread. So, could turkey preening and foraging actually decrease tick densities? Unfortunately, no. Study results show that turkeys are relatively ineffective predators of ticks. Overall, wild turkeys carry a few ticks and eat a few

ticks, and have a net zero impact.

The Bigger Picture

In addition to hosts, ticks also require suitable habitat and favorable environmental conditions such as humidity and temperature. Milder seasons have contributed to the spread of deer ticks in Maine. Warmer temperatures support higher survival by giving ticks more time to find hosts and by allowing more ticks to lay eggs and more eggs to survive to hatch.

Scientists continue to research how variables such as changes in tick habitat, host habitat, host density, host health, and climate relate to each other and to the proliferation of ticks in our state.

"If we just have a better understanding of all the factors taken together, I think we could do a better job of helping people control deer ticks and prevent disease." -Susan Elias, PhD

Winter Ticks and Moose

In addition to taking the heat for

an increase in deer ticks and Lyme disease in southern Maine, turkeys are also often wrongly blamed for the impact of winter tick on moose in northern Maine. Winter tick has been documented in Maine since the 1930s, well before turkey reintroduction. Unlike deer ticks, winter ticks use a single host, usually a moose, for their whole life cycle. The turkey population is quite small in the core moose range, so even if turkeys were to carry a significant number of winter ticks, there is limited opportunity to cause any large-scale effect on the landscape. Mild winters combined with high moose population densities are the key elements in proliferation of winter tick and reproductive rates of moose.



Federal Duck Stamp Modernization Act



On December 20th, President Biden signed S. 788, the Duck Stamp Modernization Act, into law, delivering a significant victory to waterfowl hunters across the nation. The Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) Leaders Co-Chairs Sens. John Boozman and Joe Manchin, CSC Vice-Chairs Sens. Roger Marshall and Angus King as well as CSC Vice-Chair Rep. Garret Graves and CSC Member Rep. Mike Thompson spearheaded this legislation.

The Duck Stamp Modernization Act will simplify the Federal Duck Stamp process by allowing hunters to have an electronic duck stamp on their smartphone for the entirety of the hunting season. Prior to the enactment of the Duck Stamp Modernization Act, when a hunter purchased an electronic Federal Duck Stamp (e-stamp), the e-stamp was only valid for a period of 45 days to allow for actual stamp to be mailed. Once the actual stamp was received, hunters were required to have a signed actual stamp on their possession while hunting. However, this legislation will remove the 45-day validation period and make the electronic stamp valid for the entirety of the hunting season. To ensure the continuance and integrity of the Federal Duck Stamp art contest, a longstanding tradition for waterfowlers, S. 788 will ensure that purchasers of e-stamps still receive the actual stamp in the mail. Specifically, the legislation will provide that actual stamps will be mailed to purchasers from March 10 to June 30.

The Four Paw Restaurant Challenge ...A Short Season

by Nancy Anisfield, © 2016, *Shotwad: Besides the Point*

Update on Reality TV: the ultimate cooking competition show, this time for dogs. Think of it as Hell's Kennel meets Rover Repo. Pick the biggest eaters of the bird dog world, except for Labrador retrievers because their capacity for consumption is unequaled by any breed – or species, for that matter – and challenge them to prepare the designated dinner fare within the allotted time for evaluation by a panel of famous culinary judges.

Your first contestant is a giraffe-necked German shorthair notorious for counter surfing and the ability to suck the thigh off a supermarket rotisserie chicken in nanoseconds. Contestant number two is a rotund wirehaired pointing griffon whose rise to fame rests on his ability to store a week's worth of sun dried kibble slobber in his beard. The third contestant, a garrulous braque, boasts the unique ability to ingest two baby rabbits and a sluggish mole at once, having developed a post-John-Deere shovel maneuver designed specifically for scooping up exposed varmints during haying.

Episode Three of this year's "Champion Chops" final finds judges Stewy "The Chomper" Fetchenberg (a rotund chocolate Lab and author of *Crate Cooking on the Mediterranean Diet*), Max "Rump Roast" Whoa (a robust black Lab and head chef of the Gummy Dog Eateries franchise), and Skipper Bok Choy, a snarky Chinese pug with "short man" syndrome who, nevertheless, can stir up a five-star groundhog remoulade with one leg tied behind his back.

In tonight's episode, our three contestants have been asked to prepare a tailgate feast, using only the ingredients in the studio pantry and keeping in mind that chocolate, antifreeze and macadamia nuts are toxic to dogs. They have 30 seconds to gather ingredients and a half hour to prepare their meal.

When the starting pistol fired, the shorthair, the only one tall enough to reach the top shelves, frantically grabbed every bag of Doritos, potato chips, pretzels and

tacos he saw. The griffon, a known meat obsessive, loaded chops, steaks, ground pork, ham hocks and slab bacon in his cart. The braque, being a country boy went for the locavore organic section and chose a free-range chicken and tofu to create his tailgate sensation.

Immediately the contestants realized the errors of their ways. After crunching down a full bag of Cheetos and a third of a bag of Munchos, the shorthair felt sufficiently fortified to begin cooking. But one glance into his cart told him he was in trouble. No meat. No burgers, no wings, no nothing smacking of muscle or protein. He went off in search of the studio cat. Asked by the show host what his menu plans were, the shorthair replied, "No comment."

By contrast, the griffon had only meat in his cart, an equally challenging situation. To provide some roughage and a base on which to build his meaty menu, the griff quickly chewed the leg off an oak studio cabinet, then upchucked it neatly while plating his first dish. (This, by the way, is no easy feat since it usually takes several hours for shredded wood chew to be metabolically rejected.) With just a smidgen of mayo, however, the oak slaw passed nicely for the fiber part of the meal.

The braque also had his share of problems. He wanted to spatchcock the chicken (remove backbone and flatten it for quicker cooking) but without opposable thumbs, snipping the cartilage and cutting away the bones without making a mess of the bird was nearly impossible. His only alternative was to toss the roaster on the floor and repeatedly fling himself upon it then forcefully wriggle and roll in the hopes that the bones would just pulverize to dust. It took 27 out of the 30 allotted minutes to flatten the chicken. Needless to say, it came out underdone.

Meanwhile, at the judges' table, someone passed gas and blamed it on the dog. Everyone took offense.



It went downhill from there. Both Lab judges began to drool uncontrollably at the smell of the griff's grilled bacon-wrapped lamb chops with tenderloin sauce. Saliva poured over the podium and dribbled on the floor where its slimy puddle caught Judge Skipper Bok Choy's front foot, sending the portly pug sliding across the stage into the braque's portable rotisserie. The rotisserie tipped over, spilling chicken juice and fowl parts everywhere. This was too much for the impatient griffon. He dove shaggy eyebrows first into the succulent bird and had it almost completely devoured when Judge Max Whoa shoved him aside and finished off the last seasoned thigh.

Not to be outdone, Judge Stewy Fetchenberg joined in the melee, slurping up sautéed ham hocks and gravy. The outraged braque pushed over the shorthair's cart, tearing into bag after bag of Fritos and beer nuts, pausing only to gnaw the lid off a jar of salsa for dipping.

The camera crew panicked and fled as the host quickly announced a commercial break then grabbed a deep-fried high performance tofu biscuit and bolted from the studio. Above the commotion, the crowds outside could hear the gleeful howl of the griff as he ripped the doors off the pantry and the entire pack of canine super chef's lunged into the cupboards, devouring everything in sight.

Only the shorthair was nowhere to be seen. And to this day, the little bowl of milk by the kitty's litter box remains untouched.

The show was cancelled for next season.

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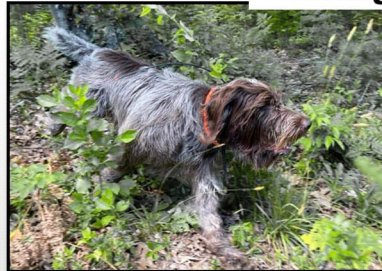
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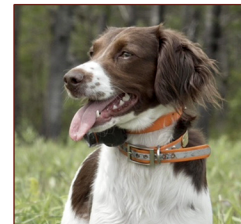
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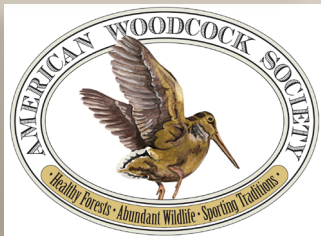
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