



# barking dog express

Yankee Chapter of NAVHDA

oct/nov/dec 2021

from our president...

**There is no moss growing under our feet, however, possibly a mushroom or two!**

It's been a very busy past 30+ days. As a chapter we have been training very hard as our fall testing approached. Whether it was the 2021 Invitational in Iowa, a local NA/UT test or helping a friend prep, we've all travelled many many miles together. Your hard work has guaranteed an amazing hunting season is ahead with your NAVHDA trained dog.

#### NAVHDA Invitational 2021

The time spent with fellow chapter members at the 2021 NAVHDA Invitational was full of ups and downs, successes and heartbreaking moments. The Yankee Chapter Cheerleaders zipped from venue to venue supporting each other. I was so proud of our support crew. Congratulations to you all -- Suzi, Steve, Bill, Terry, Blaine, Matt, Justin, Joanna and Kurt. Please feel free to ask any of us in attendance to share their own personal Invy story. They are truly endless.

#### Yankee Chapter Training and Testing 2021

Huge cheers to our chapter support crew as we end a record year of training and testing dogs. Eight max days of testing followed a record number of entries received. My daughter Misi said to me in the middle of the summer, "Mom, work like a duck." Look cool and calm on top of the water, but paddle like the dickens underwater. Yup, we were all a busy flock

of ducks most of the time. Thank you once again for your time, expertise and energy. We have an amazing crew.

#### Hunting season 2021

It has arrived! I wish you all a safe and bountiful fall with family and friends. It's time to go create some life long memories. Be sure to pack phone numbers of YC contacts, first aid stuff and of course the closest vet in the event of an emergency. Be sure your dog has identification on him or her at all times. Pack matches, candy bar and a compass. Better to be safe than sorry. Now I sound like your mother, well....I guess I am. Yankee members, go have a ball.

See you in the woods.

Safe hunting  
-- Patti

#### Welcome New Yankee Chapter Members !

Cheryl Cornett

Russell Oakes

Shana, Nathan, Corey  
Bennett

Andrew Christie

Jeff & Stephanie Miller

Benjamin and Carolyn  
Schofield



bulletin board

Upcoming Events:

**Yankee Chapter  
Annual Meeting**  
January 2022 TBD

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



**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!

yankee updates and info

**KUDOS &  
APPLAUSE  
FOR  
ALL THE GREAT  
YANKEE DOGS  
THAT TESTED  
THIS FALL!**

**Yankee Chapter  
Invitational Dogs  
Results**

Blaine Carter - Willa	193 Pass
Matt Lorello - Dylan	196 Pass
Terry Wilson - River	171 no pass
Bill Thomas - Jake	182 no pass
Justin Dodge - Tillie	159 no pass
Kurt Adams - Piper	156 no pass
Suzi Moore - Iger	182 Pass
Steve Buck - Hamilton	161 no pass
Joanna Korte - Maya	162 no pass

**FALL TEST RESULTS**

**september 5 – natural ability**

1. Casey Mowers	Roxie	112 Prize 1
2. Justin Boothby	Fonzi	112 Prize 1
3. Sarah Degroot	Cara	98 Prize 3
4. PJ Rose	Tippet	112 Prize 1

**utility**

5. Danielle Murphy	Ember	189 Prize 3
6. Gocki Andrews	Kalla	192 Prize 2
7. Reggie Poussard	Gwennie	183 Prize 3

**september 3 – natural ability**

1. Andrew Burdick	Watson	112 Prize 1
2. Kathleen Weller	Meadow	112 Prize 1
3. Dan Riley - handler: Phil Thayer	Willow	105 Prize 1
4. Sarah Bodine	Henry	105 Prize 2
5. Tobias Schroeder	Mica	83 no prize
6. Benjamin Schofield	Perry	102 Prize 3
7. Branden Bell Colfor - handler Dani Friend	Ellah	108 Prize 1
8. Elise Wright	Kate	112 Prize 1
9. Philip Thayer	Storm	60 no prize
10. Clayton Loubier	Duke	112 Prize 1

**september 4 – utility**

1. Russell Estes	Doc	142 no prize
2. Gocki Andrews	Tilde	191 Prize 2
3. Peter Bako	Lady	161 Prize 3
4. Kelley & Brent Grover - handler: Kelley Grover	Thor	172 Prize 2
5. James Willis	Chance	115 no prize
6. James Willis	Bristol	159 Prize 3

**september 5 – natural ability**

1. Tom Barks	Nova	107 Prize 2
<b>utility</b>		
2. Lauri & Jerome Bailey- handler: Lauri Bailey	Mazie	180 Prize 2
3. Kelley Grover	Zena	185 Prize 2
4. Darcy St. John	Orion	167 Prize 2
5. Wyatt Knutson - handler: Misi Knutson	Moxie	202 Prize 1
6. Patti Carter	Etta	178 no prize

**from our Secretary...**

For those who missed our informal mid year meeting at the Burnham water clinic, here is what you missed...

Announcements: Mike Rinaldi will not be completing his term as Treasurer and Patti Carter has asked Sarah Franklin to finish out his term, Sarah has graciously accepted. Mike's hard work and organization as treasurer over the past few years will be missed.

Youth: Our Youth program had an amazing turnout for the Fool a Fish Challenge on May 22. Thank you to Toby Leveque and Greg Pointe for your generosity and support for our chapter youth. The Yankee Chapter Apprentice Hunter Camp was an amazing success! Thank you to EVERYONE who pitched in to make this program continue to inspire youth to get outside and get involved. A special thanks to Jason Carter, Sarah Franklin, Misi Knutson, and Blaine and Patti Carter, your tireless dedication to this program does not go unnoticed.

The updates to the website were mentioned and everyone is very pleased with the updates Brian Pike and Misi Knutson have been making.

A difficult subject discussed during the meeting was the overwhelming number of Test applicants received this year. Many ideas were shared, but unfortunately, there is no simple solution. Only so many spots allowed per day per NAVHDA International rules and an unprecedented amount of applicants this year equals a lot of disappointed handlers, even after adding an extra testing day this fall. Please understand our chapter policy has always been that applicants are placed in order of application received. I, as well as the rest of the board, understand the frustration a lot of you are feeling. ...Many thanks to Will Beck for navigating his way through this complicated testing process; it may seem easy to some who have never sat in his chair, but Test Secretary is not an easy job and often goes unappreciated.

One more thing, please send Nancy Anisfield any stories or articles for the Barking Dog Express, she always appreciates when members share their personal stories or articles the chapter might find interesting.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Weller, Yankee Chapter Secretary

## correspondence & donation



July 12, 2021 from: **Steven Buck**

Patti,

Very well organized! I also "like being told what to do" to improve the clinic and relieve those of you who have carried the heavy load. I heard multiple people from other chapters saying it was one of the best run clinics they have attended and so were the people. Guess the Chapter can expect to be a victim of their own success.

Great work all board members for the organization. It showed and went very, very well.

July 12, 2021, from **John Ebel**

Hi Patti;

A quick note to say how much I enjoyed yesterday's training clinic. One could not help but be impressed with the organization, commitment, energy and the accumulated expertise demonstrated on that training ground. I came away with valuable insights and tailored "next steps" that will guide my training activities for the next month.

Many thanks to the volunteers and to the entire chapter for allowing Moxie and me to participate.

I met many nice folks there who were welcoming and with whom I enjoyed friendly banter throughout the event.

Hope to see you soon.  
Kind Regards,  
John & Moxie

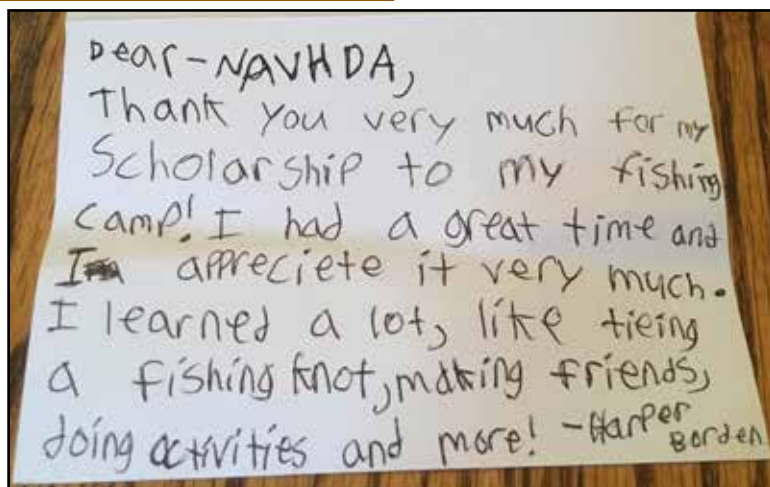
July 12, 2021 from: **Nick Racioppi**

Patti -

I thought it was a great day and really appreciate the volunteers' support to make our events great. No one was standing around and everyone should have takeaways to train our incredible dogs.

Great job to all and thank you.

Nick





## What a Year!

by Blaine Carter

As the scores were read on our last day of testing for 2021, I looked at the faces of our chapter in the crowd. Faces of hard working officers, new members testing their first dog in Natural Ability, and dedicated trainers.

It's time to go hunting. We, as a chapter, have supplied you with the tools to create a great season with your dog. Most of us will be out of reach during this season, enjoying the woods and waters throughout our country. I want to wish our chapter members a safe season and great hunting adventures. You all deserve it.

I especially want to thank my training committee for their hours of dedication. 2021 presented many hurdles, especially considering the numbers in attendance at our events. Tyler Bruce, Jim Daniels, Will Beck, Jim Greenleaf, Jason Hawes, Casey Mowers, Bill Tracy -- your professionalism added much to our events.



### Maine Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Get your decoys ready, it is almost time!

#### Don't forget your federal and state waterfowl permits

**State Migratory Waterfowl Permit:** The State Migratory Waterfowl Permit is required of anyone 16 years of age or older if they are hunting on an adult license, but is not required if continuing to hunt on a junior license for the remainder of the calendar year.

**Federal Stamp:** Anyone who turns 16, whether hunting on an adult license or a junior license, must purchase a Federal Stamp. The Federal Stamp must be validated by the holder's signature written across the face of the stamp in ink.

The state permit may be purchased for \$7.50 from local license agents, online, or from the MDIFW office in Augusta. The Federal stamp can be purchased by visiting your local Post Office or USPS.com. The Migratory Waterfowl Stamp is not required to hunt woodcock, snipe, rails or crows.

Did you know...

All revenue from the sale of state waterfowl permits is used exclusively for acquisition of waterfowl habitat and waterfowl management activities!

This revenue was recently used to add 525 acres with more than a mile of frontage on the Sebasticook River at the Plymouth Bog Wildlife Management Area and 75 acres also with more than a mile of frontage on the Harrington River to be added to the Pleasant River Wildlife Management Area. These properties include high quality habitat for waterfowl species and offer exceptional hunting opportunities.

More information: Plan your hunt - 2021-2022 Migratory Game Bird Quick Reference Guide (PDF)  
<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/21-MDIFW-15-Migratory-stand-alone.pdf>

*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.*

*For more articles by Dr. Nolt, go to <https://www.drbarrynolt.com/shooting-glasses/shooting-articles-by-dr-nolt/>*

by Dr. Barry Nolt

For those of you who are shooting trap, skeet and sporting clays in the ninety percent range this article is not for you. If, however, you are a new shooter and your shooting is inconsistent; you may want to give this a read.

The three areas of shotgunning that I believe give most shooters problems are:

1. Eye dominance problems which lead to cross firing.
2. Not sighting in your shotgun to confirm your point of impact matches your aiming point.
3. Failing to get your shotgun fitted properly, with emphasis on cast and drop at the comb.

This happened to me and here is my story.

Skeet and sporting clays attracted me at age 40 which coincided with my midlife crisis. I thought I needed a new hunting dog, new shotgun and a fancier SUV; but more than that I wanted to learn how to shoot a shotgun properly.

I went through the usual steps of buying and selling shotguns, much to the delight of many gun shop owners. With each new gun I would hit some targets but miss most of the time, not understanding why. This was a mystery to me. I blamed it on poor coordination but did my best to keep the economy rolling, telling my wife shotguns always appreciate and you never lose money on one.

I eventually joined a Wednesday night skeet league. I had never shot skeet before and they welcomed me. On my first round of skeet, only one bird broke, the low seven. I had failed before in life with other ventures and would not give up easily. I must have to read more books and watch more videos. That would surely help. It did not!

I finally met a shooting coach at the gun club who was willing to help me out. He stood behind me at station four and watched me shoot. He told me I was inconsistent. He did say, for the most part, I was behind my left to right targets by four feet and in front of my right to left targets. Hmmm.

We went back to station one and he called for a low-house bird. I missed one foot in front of it. (I am right eye dominant and shoot right handed). He told me to close my left eye and call for another bird. This time the target was powdered. The diagnosis? CROSS FIRING.

As an optometrist I know and have studied binocular vision systems. I could not believe I was CROSS FIRING. How could this happen to me? I had often read about CROSS FIRING but had incorrectly dismissed it as a problem for my poor shooting. The standard tests for eye dominance are highly sensitive but false positives do occur. This means my left eye was taking over and the eye looking down the barrel was no longer in charge. I now know this is a significant problem for many shooters. So why does this happen?

Under certain field conditions your brain can take over and say "I like the view here better." The left eye can take over and cause a switch in dominance. The problem is exacerbated by low light conditions, tiredness, poor contrast and under the stress of competition. This causes a right-handed shooter to shoot behind left to right targets, in front of right to left targets, and to the left of straight away and incoming targets. It is just the opposite for left hand shooters. If you cross fire intermittently, it is worse because your mental computer (your brain) gets confused and your learning curve goes down. You miss the bird but the perceived sight picture is the same when your left eye takes over. This is an example of a mystery miss and you have no idea why.

We solve this problem with a Magic Dot kit. The kit comes with two oval shaped translucent occluders and one blue opaque dot. First, occlude your aiming eye with a tissue, on the inside of your shooting glasses. With your shooting glasses on and your gun mounted, place the blue dot on the front surface of the non-aiming lens to block out the front half of your barrel (you will require help to do this properly). After you are happy with the placement of the blue dot, remove your shooting glasses with the blue dot affixed to the front surface of your lens. Now remove the backing on the translucent oval dot. Line it up with the blue dot but on the inside lens surface. Remove the blue dot and retain for future use. Put the shooting glasses back on. Mount your gun and close your aiming eye. The front half of your barrel will be occluded. The translucent dots that come with the kits are quite large so with consistent gun mount and face pressure you will be able to decrease the size of the dot down to 10 to 12 mm.

When the dot is placed correctly you will not be aware of it while hunting or at the range. This enables retention of peripheral binocular vision and dot only comes into play when you mount your gun and are acquiring a target. Magic Dots eliminate CROSS FIRING!

*Part Two: Gun Fitting will appear in the next issue of Barking Dog Express*



## yankee chapter showcase



*clockwise from upper left...*

*What big teeth you have!*

*photo: Kathleen Weller*

*Goose dogs with attitude*

*photo: Jason Carter*

*Long way between stops*

*photo: Sue Morton*

*Willow*

*photo: Dan Riley*

*Paige with Yankee test swag*

*photo: Dani Friend*

from our conservation partners...

## Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever

### PF / QF REACTS TO USDA'S CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

About a month ago, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the acceptance of 2.8 million acres into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) so far in 2021. The positive news will help stem the tide of the 3 million acres set to expire from contract on September 30th. The Habitat Organization remains focused on advocating for additional CRP signup opportunities and increased incentives to assist the nation's private landowners and agricultural communities in meeting a 27-million-acre program cap by the end of fiscal year 2023. CRP remains the country's single most effective conservation tool creating wildlife habitat, improving water quality, protecting soil health, ensuring climate resiliency, and safeguarding robust rural economies.

"Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are thankful to USDA for implementing much-needed administrative changes to CRP earlier this year which made it a viable option again for our nation's farmers, ranchers and landowners," said Jim Inglis, Director of Government Affairs for Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. "But make no mistake about it, a lot more CRP acres are needed to help landowners address resource concerns throughout the country – especially those affecting grassland birds. We look forward to working with USDA officials and Congressional leadership to help be a catalyst for the nation's leading conservation program."



## Ruffed Grouse Society / American Woodcock Society



### WOODCOCK MIGRATION MAPS UNDERWAY FOR 2021

September 20, 2021: New woodcock movements have been minimal since the two July migrants settled, with only one brief ranging movement from a West Virginia bird in August. Our collaborators just finished deploying 15 new transmitters in Rhode Island, which will remain dormant until this spring. Over the next few weeks we'll be deploying several dozen new transmitters in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Vermont, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia. These transmitters will then provide daily locations once migration starts ~ October 15th.

Using our interactive mapping tool, you can view the status of woodcock locations for a specific range of dates by toggling the slider below. During periods of major migration in the Fall (Oct 15-Dec 15) and Spring (Mar 1 through mid-May) we update the database regularly, but given transmitter upload frequencies we expect about a +/- 3-day precision on our location data. Learn more about how our transmitter technology functions on our research page: <https://www.woodcockmigration.org/research.html>

We have archived updates for the 2021 Spring Migration below. For updates prior to September 2020, see our Migration Archives page, or, you can visit our data exploration page to visualize previous year's migration data yourself.

<https://ruffedgrousesociety.org/migration-map/>



# yankee YOUTH!

from director of youth development jason carter

## Yankee Chapter Featured Youth Member Natalie Peaslee

It would be pretty hard to attend a Yankee Chapter event and miss this young lady, Natalie Peaslee. Her "Pa," as she calls him, is her grandfather Andy Baker. Way before our events begin, Natalie is hustling about doing whatever task she can find, proudly wearing her Yankee Chapter T-shirt. This summer Natalie attended Bryant Pond with a scholarship from the Kenny King/Bob Bisson Fund for chapter youth. She got her Hunters Safety Certificate, passed her ATV Class, attended the NAVHDA Apprentice Hunter Program and our Aims and Rules Clinic. She is a High Honors Student and great basketball player. Natalie loves horses and helping her Pa around the farm. She will be accompanying him opening day with his dog Dakota and using ammo she reloads herself.

We are very proud to call Natalie a Yankee Chapter Youth.



## Dog Breed Questionnaire

What do you call a dog that has been left outside in the cold for an extended period of time?

*A chilidog.*

What kind of dog likes taking a bath every day?

*A shampoodle.*

When you cross a sheepdog with a rose, what do you get?

*A collieflower.*

## autumn word scramble

Unscramble the following letter sets to identify things you see in autumn. (answers on page 10)

lalf agolife  
tagginirm seege  
smippkun  
lolowy reba clarrstelpi  
cwodkoco  
stofry gomnirs

**Waterfowl season** is a favorite for many... The unmatched sunrises and sunsets, the thrill of seeing waterfowl fly in, and the camaraderie of hunting with friends (furry or human!) are just a few reasons why. If you are new to waterfowl hunting, here are a few tips:

1. Decoy placement: Put out an odd number of decoys, with one at your maximum range and the rest within your shooting range. Place decoys on one side or the other (not all around you to avoid making yourself a focus point).
2. Calls: Always let the decoys do the work for you. When people start duck hunting, they often call too much and spook the birds. Consider starting off without a call and waiting to see what you may need.
3. Take one bird at a time, particularly if you don't have a dog, and only take ethical, responsible shots that are within your range.

4. Keep your eye on the bird as long as you can after the shot, they can drop hundreds of feet away.

5. If hunting with steel shot always pattern your gun before you hunt so you understand how many pellets you have in that kill zone.

6. Choose your shotgun wisely. Consider where you will hunt and the necessary range. If hunting with a buddy, consider using the same gauge shotgun so you are both targeting the same range.

Tips provided by MDIFW  
Fisheries  
Resource Technician  
Scott Davis





## Into the Maine Woods with Old Sugarfoot

*Dave Mosher owns Sugarfoot Kennels, the terrific water training site where the Yankee Chapter held our July water clinic. Besides being a legend in the retriever training world, Dave is an accomplished outdoorsman and guide. This article appears at <https://www.gothamcanoe.com/into-the-maine-woods-with-old-sugarfoot/> and is reprinted with Dave's permission.*

By Peter Fritsch

By dawn, the rain has been tapping for a solid hour on the roof of our cabin. Perfect sleeping conditions, especially when paired with the cool June air and stillness of this idyll on the shores of Lake Munsungan, deep in the North Maine woods.

Dave Mosher, 82 years old, is having none of that. "Hell-OOOOO! Anybody alive in they-uh?!", Dave bellows as he peers through a screen window, hands cupped like blinders, not for the first time this week. "We got a window before the heavy stuff comes down. Meecha at the truck!" He frames a broad grin with two thumbs up and is gone.

Dave is a fly-fishing guide. More than that, he is a Registered Maine Guide, an elite breed of several thousand men and women qualified to take you to places even the makers of the most preposterous of SUV commercials fear to tread. There is a life of woodcraft, a love of the land and a passion for its conservation. Not to mention early starts.

The first Maine Guide, licensed by the state in 1897, was Cornelia Thurza "Fly Rod" Crosby. Among America's first professional fly-fishing guides, if not the first, she also shot Maine's first caribou (legally anyway), befriended Annie Oakley, lobbied for less-restrictive dress for women and once landed (by her count) 200 fish in a single day. She liked to describe herself this way: "I am a plain woman of uncertain age, standing six feet in my stockings... I scribble a bit for various sporting journals, and I would rather fish any day than go to heaven."

Dave is Cornelia's most worthy successor. Standing five-foot nine in his boots and retaining more than his fair share of sinew, he is a bantam rooster of a man who has to arch his neck and cape sharply to see over the hood of his Ford Super Duty F250. That doesn't guarantee he



misses the hazards that approach on the logging roads with the relentlessness of Tetris blocks. "I don't baby her," Dave says, giving the dashboard a couple of love taps. "But I treat her right, yes I show-ah do."

Suddenly, the front left tire jumps and lands with a thud. "Dave, I think you might have hit that snapping turtle," I say. "Hope so," he replies. "They eat ducklings like popcorn."

Dave lives by a simple code: if you are a creature accretive to the success of the species that Dave and his clients like to pursue, you're good. If you're not, you're bad. To wit, the loons on Big Pine Pond have learned how to ambush fishermen in canoes. They pop up like corks right where you drop your fly in the hopes of poaching a hooked and helpless trout. Just the previous evening, a pair of loons ruined what should have been an epic evening of dry fly fishing. "I'd like to give 'em my .357," Dave says. "Nasty, shameful birds." Which also happen to be stunning animals of unusual grace who, of course, were there first.

I was contemplating having that very debate with Dave while en route back to camp post loon fiasco when we came upon a ruffed grouse holding her ground in the middle of the road. "She'll be protecting a brood, sure as sugar," says Dave. Sure enough, eight chicks with surprising dexterity on the wing flee for the woods. Dave is elated, almost in tears, as their mother perches on a birch sapling by the road, standing her ground between her offspring and the big metal intruder with bright halogen eyes. He turns down '50s on 5 playing on Sirius radio, powers down the window and coos: "Oh sweetheart, I love you! Take good care of those honey pies you beautiful girl and I'll see you in the fall!"

When grouse hunting season opens.

Born and raised near Bangor, Dave got into fly fishing in July 1956, invited by his high school baseball coach to camp and prospect for brook trout (it's actually in the char genus, so not technically a trout). The hook was set. It was all split cane, slow-action bamboo rods in those days, handcrafted tools requiring profound patience. Today, those rods are more commonly found mounted on an old rod and gun club's wall than on the water. His first rod now belongs to a grandson, one of his 12 grandchildren. "Still works perfectly," he says.

An accomplished fisherman who, of course, ties all his own flies (often with feathers from birds he's shot himself), guiding is Dave's third career. After the Army, Dave taught high school math for 26 years while raising a family of six children with his high school sweetheart. "We were young and had four before we figured out what was causing it," he laughs. After retiring, he bred and trained champion bird dogs before turning that business over to a son six years ago. "Made more money teaching dogs than humans."

*continued on next page*

Today, Dave guides. A lot. Grouse and woodcock hunts. Bear hunts. Trout. You name it. Like all the best guides, Dave is a kind and patient man who forgives every mistake with a laugh and a sincere “done it myself a thousand times.” Unlike most guides, some of his rods are duct taped together. His canoe paddles are cut from cedar milled on his own property. He eschews new-fangled water-proof packs, preferring to tote his gear in an old-fangled L.L. Bean ice fishing pack basket. Please don’t offer to carry it for him. “When I can’t lug it, that’s when I’ll stop.”

On our last, rainy morning together we head to Great Cedar pond. We’d been fishing all week and had even landed a rare blueback trout, a landlocked species of Arctic char stranded by receding glaciers from the last Ice Age and now found only in a handful of deep lakes in Maine. Truly the fish of a lifetime. The dry-fly fishing was fantastic too – Dave and I fished together one evening taking a good number of wild brook trout, he on Cahills and me on a size 16 cul-de-canard caddis.

But Dave wasn’t satisfied. He was due to go home the night before, but we hadn’t caught what he calls a “gommer” of a brook trout, a true giant of the sort that roams the depths of ponds and lakes in northern Maine. That’s what brought him to our cabin window on a rainy morning on a day he should have had off. “We need a mountable fish,” says Dave. “A cigar fish. Not gonna be happy driving home if we don’t get her, no sir I won’t.”

It’s a rugged, sloppy hike down to Great Cedar on a trail Dave blazed himself a couple years back (on his day off). Now, six canoes are stashed near his honey hole, surrounded by fresh moose tracks. We’d fished the pond earlier in the week and I took no small amount of joy in switching out a fly Dave gave me for a black-nosed dace I’d tied myself. That landed me four decent fish. But no true gommers.

No sooner did we launch our canoe than the rain stopped and the sky brightened. The water was a black mirror of cedars, pine and birch. Dave suggested I forgo the dace and handed me his unpatented “Sugarfoot Smelt,” a tie of his own design employing white marabou, peacock herl, French tinsel and a feather resembling jungle cock I am not at liberty to disclose.

We saw a rise and I cast to it. But that fish wasn’t really feeding on top so I cast a few times over the rise on full sinking line, giving it a solid 20 count to get the fly down before stripping back to the canoe in steady 6-inch bursts.

Bam! The unmistakable weight of a good fish straining the backbone of my 6 weight and testing the 4x tippet I’d tied on. Five nervy minutes later and he was in the net. The biggest, fattest slob of a brook trout I have ever seen. A gommer. Too beautiful to measure or weigh, we took a quick picture and let her go.

We’d been on the water for all of 20 minutes.

We agree to call it a day right there. We drive back to camp listening to 50s on 5, smiles draped ear to ear. Dave pulls out a cigar for his four-hour drive home. I get out of the truck and warn him I’m going to hug him.

“Please do!” he says.

## **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.

## **send us your hunting stories!**

We are always looking for fun articles and stories for the Yankee newsletter. Send us short pieces on your adventures hunting and training, dog insights, or best game recipe. Please send your stories or story ideas to the Barking Dog Express at: [anisfield@gmavt.net](mailto:anisfield@gmavt.net).

## **barking dog advertising**

Litter Ads - 1/4 page max size  
free for members  
\$15 / month non-members

Business Card Ads -  
\$25 /year members  
\$35 / year non-members

## **Wishing you all ~**

**Happy Hunting!**  
**Happy Halloween!**  
**Happy Thanksgiving!**  
**Happy Holidays!**

Autumn Word Scramble: fall foliage, migrating geese, pumpkins, woolly bear caterpillars, woodcock, frosty mornings



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## Addressing Puppy Energy

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by Tony J. Peterson, from the New York Outdoor News

*Joe Kazar sent in this article and noted that "the article really opened my eyes open wider." Reprinted with a permission request submitted to the New York Outdoor News.*

Anyone reading this who has kids at home who are engaged in distance learning probably knows the negative side effects of youngsters not getting enough exercise and mental stimulation. This has been painfully obvious in our household at various times, and it's challenging for all involved. So challenging, in fact, that while I'm not advocating selling your children for any reason, after this year I can admit that there were times when I'd have ever-so-briefly entertained the right offer.

School is much more than a place to learn for our youth. It's a source of structure, socialization, and an opportunity for them to respect and interact with figures of authority who don't tuck them into bed at night. When it comes to puppies, the same rules apply. As hunting dog owners, we often place a heavy emphasis on physical stimulation. This is a no-brainer if you've got, say, a 5-month-old German shorthaired pointer at home. The need to run in a dog like that is apparent, as it is with most sporting breeds. Better, however, than just blindly sprinting across the landscape or running behind your truck as you take your pup for a loop around the field is play hunting or exercising with a purpose.

It's no big secret that dogs love dummies, Frisbees, and balls. The chance to chase something is gene-

deep in them, and it's not much of a stretch to assume this is play hunting to them. This is good exercise for pups, especially if it is conducted in a manner that helps advance training. Physically wearing out a pup is an owner survival mechanism in some ways, and does benefit the dog. But there's another side of the equation that is becoming more important as behavioral scientists do their thing. Their research points to the importance of working what a dog has between its ears to achieve many positives. To put this into perspective...

...there's a famous stress researcher from Stanford University who studied calorie burn in chess players during tournaments. The results showed that some players burned up to 6,000 calories – or three times the average daily limit – while playing chess. While your puppy might not be involved in that level of mental gymnastics, the truth is that a dog that solves problems is a dog that's going to be less stressed and more content. Just like humans.

The key with this strategy is that you don't want your dog to fail. You want a challenge that is doable, but not so easy that boredom sets in or so difficult that frustration ensues. This is one of the drivers behind the popularity of dog toys that allow you to fill them with treats or peanut butter so that they have to nose them around on the floor to receive their reward. Simple tasks that

give your pup the chance to think about what behavior will produce a desired result can achieve what you want as well. A pup that has to sit and wait for even a few seconds before being released to eat is a dog that is being challenged.

A 6-month-old pup sniffing around for a shed antler in the yard, or even hidden in the house, is pretty much the same thing. It doesn't take too many of these task-oriented challenges to give a young dog some mental rewards, which means that when it's involved in a day that also provides the right physical stimulation, your dog will be pleasant to be around. Puppies are generally adorable idiots, but they are also masters of getting attention and they'll do that through positive or negative behaviors. The latter is more likely to be their go-to when they're unsettled, full of energy, and craving the stimulation they need. While not solely responsible, this state of being often produces the kind of behavior that ends up in chewed-to-pieces remote controls or midnight barking sessions. Naturally, puppies will do some of what puppies do no matter what. But if you want the best experience possible, while fostering a dog that wants to learn, then making a plan to address the physical and mental needs of your new pup is a solid strategy.



## What We Know

By Jim Shepherd

*This column by Outdoor Wire editor/publisher Jim Shepherd first appeared on the Outdoor Wire on September 22, 2021. Reprinted by permission of the author. For more excellent columns and ongoing outdoor sporting news, visit <https://www.theoutdoorwire.com/>.*

What do you do when you need to quiet your mind?

That's a question being asked more and more today. We live in what is, at best, uncertain times and circumstances. The uncertainty has even made its way to the big cities.

More than a few people who revel in the hustle and bustle of those manmade canyons have discovered the energy they think fuels them in their busy, metropolitan settings really isn't coming to them. It's being drawn from them.

They're realizing that what they perceive as "energy" is really just noise. It disturbs them. To the point that a recent op-ed piece in the New York Times asked "When Did Quiet Become A Luxury Item?"

The writer was complaining that it is almost impossible to get to a place that was really, truly quiet without going someplace off-the-grid, and expensive. The piece asking about the "luxury of quiet" was written in "a coffee shop with music pumping through overhead speakers" by a writer proudly wrote of "three loud, beloved" children at home. But, the piece continued, "silence is a human need." That is true.

Ride the subway and you'll see plenty of people wearing their headphones. They may be trying to cancel the overall din, or replacing the standard racket with something equally loud, but more acceptable to them.

They're working to replace chaos with something else. ...

... As outdoors people, we just might be taking for granted one of the secret weapons that might help quieten even the squeakiest of squeaky wheels in our society.

The silence of the outdoors is potent. It's also infectious. Once you experience it, you long for it.

As outdoors enthusiasts, we take that for granted.

But even a brief stay in the din

of a major city was enough to remind me that to be heard over the general noise, some simply yell. But the people who command attention whisper.

Silence, as the old expression goes, is golden. Whether your tastes run to "Desiderata" or Proverbs, you know the peace in silence. Great writers, whether classic or contemporary, know nothing stills uncertainties of life like quiet.

My football coaches realized the power of silence. Playing as visitors in raucous stadiums, we were always reminded: "You can shut 'em up. Score when you have the ball. Stop them when they do. Send them home quiet."

As outdoors enthusiasts, we probably use our secret weapon without even realizing it. Tuning out extraneous noise allows us to remain calm when everyone around us appears to be losing their collective minds.

Learning to listen in the quiet enables you to turn down the volume of everyday life.

But like any other acquired ability, it requires practice. Take a few days off from swimming and those easy laps get harder. Your graceful strokes devolve into beating the water into submission.

Every acquired skill, be it maintaining trigger control or mending a fly line, needs practice. And every exercise requires recovery time. Our everyday din, whether it be lawnmowers, leaf blowers, laughing neighbors and barking dogs of suburbia or the constant noises of traffic and people in the city, is less stressful if you have a place you can go where silence isn't just golden, it's constant.

We go to the outdoors.

And while we're there, we learn all sorts of skills. But we often overlook this vital one. Securing water, shelter and food are critical, but don't underestimate the value of being able to rest in absolute stillness and near-total darkness.

By being outdoors, we learn that the darkness will be followed by

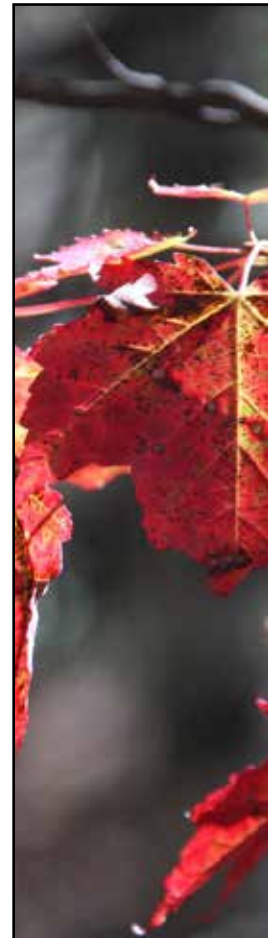
light. We respect the dangers of darkness, but we don't fear them. We know that sometimes sitting still and quiet is the wisest way to cope.

Meanwhile, our citified brethren get anxious if the music pumping in the coffee shop stops for more than a few seconds.

They're absolutely petrified at the thoughts of darkness and quiet. If you doubt that truth, study the records of search-and-rescue groups worldwide.

Many of the people who died before being rescued lacked the critical ability to simply sit tight until help arrived.

Instead, they panicked, and made bad decisions. Those decisions, sometimes as much as the conditions around them, cost their lives.





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