

MID OHIO NAVHDA OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER



Just like everything in life, it's how you frame it; is it a beginning or is it an end? Our chapter started the year in March with our training days on the first Saturday of each month until our fall tests this past weekend. The fall tests officially mark the end monthly formal training days until next year....again beginning in March on the first Saturday. But it's the beginning of the hunting season and the many travels and tales that may ensue.

Good hunting and wishes of safety and success to all! Remember gun safety. Plan ahead for your health and the health of your companion. As much as you work hard during your hunts, your dog works harder.

According to my trusty source, Matt, the duck season here starts on Saturday. I already know where to find him....at least before 6:30am!

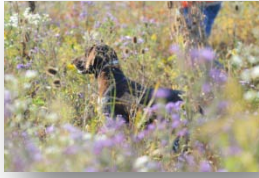


All things considered, I believe the tests were successful. An attribute of our membership is the knowledge and flexibility possessed. We know what needs to happen and how to get positive results. The days were warm, the field hard to navigate, and the ponds lacked some depth, but we got it done. Quite honestly, it was the first test in my memory that had such variety; our judges were from Canada, Indiana, and North Carolina and there were six different breeds represented (GR, IS, GSP, BS, PP, WM). It's truly incredible! The variety of breed even extended to the gallery (BB and BI---yep, that BI 'be' my Mefisto!)

Tests cannot be successful without you and it's you that I want to thank. Bill, thank you for your leadership, Andrew, for the thankless job of test secretary and the restless mind that goes along with that, Jeff, for *all* the time and effort involved in getting birds, and more thank you's to the gunners, the bird planters, the field and judges' marshal, the cook, the lunch coordinators, the duck slinger, the pheasant man for the track, the pick-up dogs, and those many that brought food to cook and/or graze 'upon'! T'was a marvelous feast wasn't it!? Ymmmmm.....



So our chapter's formalized training days are done, the year's tests are a piece of history remembered and now you and your dogs are ready for either the real deal or more winterized training. Make use of the wonderful fall days even if just 'hangin' 'round the house, trainin' in the backyard, sittin' in a duck blind, or walkin in the fields. hh



2011 Dues:

We are maintaining the fees for membership at \$30 and ideally would like them by the end of November or at your earliest convenience (Xmas party perhaps!). Please send in your 2011 Mid-Ohio NAVHDA dues in the amount of \$30 (check made out to MON or Mid-Ohio NAVHDA) to:

Matt Krejci
8462 Invergordon Court
Dublin, Ohio 43017

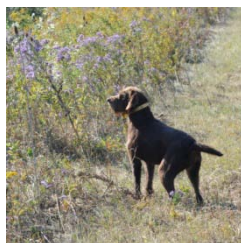
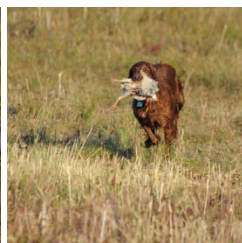
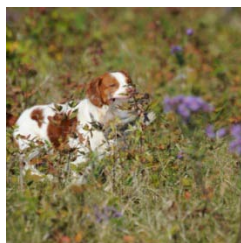
Year end celebration:

Andrew Hopkins and his wife have graciously offered to host this year's celebration. Thank you! Please note on your calendar December 5th at 3:00pm. Please bring a side dish of choice and/or dessert. Children are welcome.



The test:

I don't want to beat this to death, but thank you.....everyone; from the handlers to the volunteers, to the judges and, yes, to the dogs. Wait! I forgot to thank the weather...it didn't rain and from a photographer's perspective, that's great! "A day in the life of...." has a different meaning when involved in the testing of dogs. Anything and everything can happen on test day. Remember you and your dog did your best. What is wonderful about NAVHDA and your local chapter is they/we are here to support you and to give you 'pats on the back' or suggestions to take, mull around, and implement or adjust for your training. It's all about success. It's all about the wonders of dogs, hunting, companionship, friendship, stewardship.....



Training/hunting tips:

From the Upland Almanac-summer 2007:

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Here are some tips to gaining and maintaining access to private land:

- When asking permission, be polite and appreciative. If you're turned down, still be polite.
- Leave the camo and mud-splattered chaps at home.
- If required by law, get written permission.
- Ask where to park and give the landowner your vehicle make and license plate number.
- Ask if there is a particular time of the day or day of the week that is better for you to hunt there.

- While hunting, park where you're told, stay off wet, muddy areas and close all gates.
- Keep your dogs in the truck until you're ready to head into the field.
- Pack out what you pack in. Leave no trash behind, including spent shot shells.
- Offer some birds, cleaned of course, and perhaps share a recipe for preparing them. Or bring a simple thank you gift like a pie or block of special cheese. Then, the landowners then thank them again.

From the July/August Pointing Dog Journal 2007

Training Tip by George Hickox....Thorndike's Basic Laws:

Edward Thorndike (1911-1965) performed sundry experiments relating to how dogs' performances are enhanced through trial and error. Thorndike is recognized as the founder of the study of instrumental learning. In other words, Thorndike studied how animals learned to solve problems and to prevent problems.

A dog's response to certain stimuli-whether a command, a bird, a perceived threat, or an offer of a reward-is learned through trial and error. If a behavioral response gains something for the dog, the behavior becomes strengthened; if it results in a negative consequence for the dog, the behavior is weakened.

One pattern of consistent behavioral responses dogs learn is based on cause and effect.

Another form of learned behavior is base on how the dog perceives he can control his world. Through trial and error, the dog establishes how his behavior is the cause of gains and losses

Once a dog learns that a certain behavior works for him, the behavior may be difficult to extinguish.

Thorndike's findings are summarized in his three basic premises:

- The law of effect: a specific response followed by a positive reinforcement is stamped in. A response followed by a negative reinforcement is weakened.
- The law of exercise: A learned response is cemented through use and is diminished through the lack of use over time.
- The law of readiness: This refers to the degree of willingness, the state of readiness to which the dog is prepared to respond. If a dog is unprepared to an act, but forced to do so, he experiences negative reinforcement. It can be as simple as an overweight, out of shape dog asked to run a long jaunt in the fields.

The ideal time to develop the exhibited personality and behavioral patterns we seek is during the critical learning years of "puppyhood".

From the March/April 2007 Shooting Sportsman magazine:

A Matter of Ethics by Michael McIntosh

Words of Wisdom: Ethics define what you do; morals define who you are.....

Some system of ethics attaches to everything we do. Many things we do comprise multiple layers, each one with its own particular ethics. Ethics abound in our sport. Some are obvious and some are not. Possibly the most basic is the concept of fair chase, which in some cases spills over into law.....What is the legal limit of birds or the idea of dumping a few bags of shelled corn into a march.....One ethical issue deals with sharing, as a hunting guest who assumes he can return with his own friends can increase pressure on private ground exponentially. Private land is private land, and just because there happens to be a lot of it doesn't change any obligations.

Ethics are what stalk around your bed at 3 o'clock in the morning. Ethics are what you can honestly live with, and if you have to say to your soul and your conscience, I wish I hadn't done that, you have found the wall. Whether you do that again, whatever it is, is up to you. The Pointing Dog Journal....September/October 2009

The ABC's of an Out of State Trip.....by Steve Smith

- ✓ **A**ssemble your gear well ahead of time. Throw items in the duffle as you think about them.
- ✓ **B**e certain of your companions and their commitment to the trip...expectations, etc.
- ✓ **C**ount on bad weather. Better to have stuff you will not use than not have it.
- ✓ **D**on't assume that place or places you hunted last year, especially private land in South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and others are going to be available and unchanged this year. GRP acreage is down, more land is being leased for exclusive use, or your host may have sold out and moved on. Stay in touch throughout the year.
- ✓ **E**ven though it's easy to get your out-of-state license ahead of time over the Internet, resist the temptation. Something may come up preventing your trip.
- ✓ **F**irst aid kits are not just a good idea, they are a necessary idea for you and your dog.
- ✓ **G**etting there and back may be half the fun, but if going great distances, it could be half of your trip money. Make sure you've got enough money on your trip or add an extra hunter to share in the costs.
- ✓ **H**unting four to five days in a row can be exhausting. Plan to have at least one of the days to be shorter to relax and 'kick back'.
- ✓ **I**nvest in a GPS and learn to use it.
- ✓ **J**umping into a loaded truck after you get home from work and heading out on an all-night drive to your destination always seems like fun, but if there are not enough drivers to help or you're tired to begin with, rethink your driving plans.
- ✓ **K**ee a close eye on the sun if you're hunting strange or new country—sundown comes earlier in certain parts of the country and it's a bad idea to have a little light left with a long way to walk to your truck. Remember that GPS?
- ✓ **L**ighten up. In your clothing, that is. Think about lighter boots. A pair of boots one pound lighter than your usual ones saves you 5280 foot/pounds per mile.
- ✓ **M**ake sure you and your dog are in shape.
- ✓ **N**ot that you need a lecture from me. Have fun and be safe.
- ✓ **O**pen country, if you aren't used to it, can make estimating distances and yardages difficult and misleading. What looks like a 25 yard shot may actually be closer to 40, which means you'll shoot behind a crosser. And your truck setting on that rise over there a mile? Might be more like two.
- ✓ **P**heasants are by far the most traveled-for bird in the US and they tend to attract crowds. Think about hunting sharp-tail or grouse for a day or two.
- ✓ **Q**uit for the day while you and the dog still have a little gas in the tank.
- ✓ **R**emember that where you're going many times isn't going to be like home. Think snakes, cactus, porcupines, and other nasties you and your dog may have little experience.
- ✓ **S**pare everything if you have room—spare boots, a backup shotgun, extra dog food, emergency equipment for the truck....
- ✓ **T**ake your time getting to know the people in the Midwest and West, if that's where you're headed. Life moves a little slower there, conversations aren't rushed, and if someone asks you how you're doing, it's because they really want to know....
- ✓ **U**nder normal training situations or when we're hunting back home, we have a tendency to watch the dog for signs of distress. Don't lose that on the road especially in the heat of summer/fall or the cold of winter.
- ✓ **V**acancies at motels, hunting lodges, and on public land get more common as the season progresses, and that's simply because most out-of-staters like hunting the opening weeks. If you can hold off, the late season has a lot of benefits; lower lodging prices, less competition, the birds are concentrated in available cover, crops are down, farmers are more likely to allow you on

their land, and our dogs are probably in pretty good shape. Plus a late season rooster is a real trophy.

- ✓ **W**est is where most of us head for out-of-state trips, if the non-resident license sales are any indication, and it seems like they ought to be. But the closer you are to a major Eastern population center, the more crowded it's going to be.
- ✓ **X**-out anything on your list that didn't work out this year, and do it as soon as you get back home.
- ✓ **Y**our attitude is going to determine if a trip is a good one or a bad one, and it has less to do with the game bag than you'd think. It has to do with your expectations and what you want to get out of it; time away from work, time spent with good companions, time to work the dog....whatever motivates you because, at the end of the day, all of this is supposed to be fun.
- ✓ **Z**ero in on a specific area you want to hunt, and do it well ahead of time, before you leave home. Get information from DNR websites, from bird population predictions, get a plat book for the county you want to hunt and do your homework: even if the area is one you've hunted before, things change. Arrange permissions ahead of time by phone or e-mail so you can hit the ground hunting when you arrive



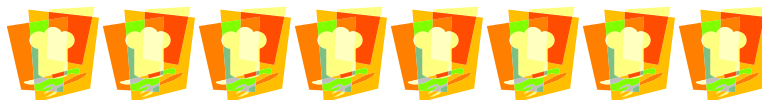
Recipe of the month: Wild Ohio Fall 2009

Easy Asian Venison....Vicki Mountz

1 pound ground venison
Oil for cooking
Minced garlic to taste
2 pkgs. (3oz.) Oriental flavored instant ramen noodles, broken up
2 cups frozen stir fry vegetable mix
2 cups water
¼ tsp. ground ginger
1 bunch green onions, sliced thin
1 individual serving pineapple chunks
Soy sauce to taste

Brown venison and garlic in small amount of oil in large, nonstick skillet until done. Use a slotted spoon to transfer venison to a bowl. Add to venison the seasoning from one of the ramen noodle packages and stir well.

Put noodles in skillet and add the stir fry vegetable mix, water, ginger, soy sauce, and remaining seasoning package. Bring to boil, reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 2 to 3 minutes, until noodles are tender. Return venison to skillet, stir in green onions and pineapple chunks and heat through.



Photographs of the test are posted at: <http://hashauser9.fototime.com>

Send photographs of your dogs, hunting shots, etc....during the winter month to hashauser9@hotmail.com