

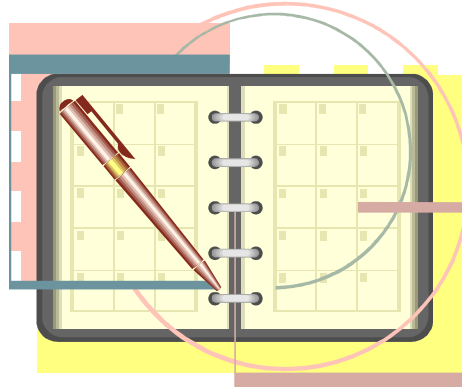


Illinois Chapter NAVHDA

October 2006

Chapter Board:

President:	Frank Susi	815.588.1377
Vice President:	Ed Rygasiewicz	708.946.9064
Secretary:	Chuck Horvath	630.420.2681
Treasurer:	Gene Wolf	708.429.1948
Board Members:	Ray Scaccia	708.749.8843
	Jim Ritze	815.458.6063
	Lark Frederiksen	815.287.9802



Calendar of Events:

October 8, 2006:	8:30 a.m.	Water Site Clean-up Day Des Plaines Conservation Area
October 14, 15, 2006:	7:00 a.m.	Chapter Natural Ability and Utility Tests Des Plaines Conservation Area
November, December 2006:		Sportsman Season No Planned Activities

Illinois Chapter Reaches Milestone

As we move closer to the end of 2006, the Illinois Chapter of NAVHDA has reached a milestone of which each member can be proud. That milestone is that the Illinois Chapter currently has 50 members representing over 75 individual dogs. This is both a tremendous achievement and a tremendous responsibility.

The reason for this growth is the outreach that each of the members has extended to new individuals that choose NAVHDA as the vehicle through which to train their dog. Without the efforts of each of us, this membership is nothing more than a list. With our efforts, it becomes a viable tool that helps each of us accomplish so much more with our dogs than we could do individually.

Over these past couple of years we have lost several dogs within our Chapter that were Utility Prize dogs. Now we have a whole new group that is currently moving up to and through Natural Ability, and beginning to move toward testing their dogs at the Utility level. Currently we have only one dog that is a Utility Prize I dog. That dog belongs to Ed Rygasiewicz. Often we don't even see "Cora" in the field because Ed is busy working with each of us as we prepare our dogs to be the best hunting companions they can be. Many of your fellow members devote a great deal of time away from their own dogs so we can become better handlers. Stop and give them a thank you from time to time.

It is so easy to say that we are too large and that it is difficult to spend the time it takes to train 75 dogs. While that may be true, our strength is in our numbers as we become better trainers and better mentors for our fellow Chapter members. The day we shut our door on new members, we become less of an organization. We become only interested in what we can do for ourselves. Let's be proud of what we have accomplished and make it a stepping stone to one of the most successful Chapters within the NAVHDA organization.

Putting Training Into Your Training Days

It comes as no surprise that we see dogs making the same mistakes training day after training day. As an observer and as a participant, I see the fault lying with us as handlers.

Several months back I was running my dog in the field and as she came on a nice solid and stylish point, I flushed the bird, shot it, and watched as my dog broke for the retrieve. Since I would only accept steadiness to wing, shot, and fall, I gave a resounding "whoa!" I picked her up, put her back at the original pointing position, and after a short wait, released her for the retrieve. When I came out of the field, one of the individuals who had been training dogs for years questioned me on my actions. "Why did you reward your dog after she broke?" he asked. Huh?! Didn't I reprimand her, take control, and put her back into her original spot? Of course I did, and then I proceeded to let her go and retrieve the bird, which she wanted to do in the first place.

I have personally said over a hundred times that if you want to get your dog steady, don't let her do every retrieve. In fact, I am a firm believer that a dog should do one out of every three possible retrieves when you are training. Let your dog understand that the retrieve is something that is done when, and only when, you send them.

A training session is designed to work on techniques that work for our dog. Each dog has an individual personality and the stern mannerisms that may work with one dog may shut another dog down. Most experienced handlers need to see how a particular dog responds to different types of training scenarios before they can implement a particular type of training plan. That certainly does not mean a program should be so structured that it keeps flexibility out of your

training. In truth, it may be better to keep the dog guessing on what is coming next as long as we are consistent in what we are working to achieve. We are not trying to confuse the dog.



I have gone out and trained with members of different clubs. It is amazing to me to see a dog doing the same thing week after week, month after month, with no efforts made to do anything different in the training routine. If you are out just to exercise your dog, just let it run and give no commands. Shouting out commands, or worse yet, using an electronic training collar and not enforcing that command, is a mistake many make day in and day out. It is why we run with a long training lead on dogs that are "pretty good" at being steady. A training session is not a hunt and you need to do more than to see if your dog can find game. Of course they can; that is why we call them hunting dogs!

Since I am part of several clubs, I get to work and observe many individuals from other groups. As a whole, NAVHDA and its programs strive for the most complete hunting companion. Another's dog may find the first bird or even the most birds on any given day, but day in and day out you can be proud of your own dog. You will own a dog that you can hunt under most circumstances. When I was running in a NSTRA trial in Wisconsin, I shot a bird that fell into a small pond. Upon seeing where the bird fell, the judge commented that I would get a high score on the retrieve if my dog did the retrieve. You can only imagine my confidence as I sent my dog for the retrieve after my NAVHDA training.

If you hunt for yourself or run your dog in competition, or even just help out at Youth Hunts, your NAVHDA trained Utility Dog will be the best trained dog in the field.

Chapter Fall Test Scheduled October 14-15

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Illinois Chapter would like to thank so many of you who have volunteered to help at our Fall Test. Everyone who has been involved in the past knows how much the volunteers contribute to running a successful test.

On Sunday, October 8th, we ask that as many of you as possible come out to help us police and clean up the Des Plaines water site. The trail that leads to our duck search area doesn't clear itself every year! Neither do the cans, fishing lines, and garbage in the area all disappear by themselves. It is the efforts of our Chapter members that get this area prepared for our water work at our Fall Test. Please make the effort to come out as early as possible with gloves, garbage bags, pails, weed whackers, saws, and pruning shears. We will try to assemble at the water site as early as 8:30 a.m. on that Sunday morning.

As a follow-up to that date, we thank those of you who have already made it known that you would be in attendance all day to help on our test days. Our Test Secretary, Ray Scaccia, has done a remarkable job of getting everything coordinated. A tentative list of those who have volunteered is as follows:

Marshall:	Carla Ogert (Saturday and Sunday)
Judge Steward:	Perry DiGirolamo
Bird Steward:	Gene Wolf and Frank Susi
Gunners:	Ed Rygasiewicz, Frank Susi, Jim Ritze, Jerry Chadwick, Herb Hoyer, Chuck Horvath, Erik Frederiksen, and Lark Frederiksen
Distraction Gunner:	Herb Hoyer
Water Site Properties:	Ed Rygasiewicz and Adam DeLude
Duck Thrower:	Jim Ritze and Adam DeLude
Duck Search Escort:	Sue Chadwick
Pheasant Handler NA:	Tom Hession
Food Coordinator:	Erik Frederiksen
Bird Pick-up:	Frank Susi (Quail and Chucker) Chuck Horvath (Ducks) Jim Harrington (Pheasants)
Bird Dresser:	Joe Shaughnessy

We welcome your active participation at our test and hope that those of you who have not volunteered before make it known that you would like to learn a little bit more about what it takes to put on a NAVHDA test.

Lunch During Fall Test Days

The concessionaire at the Des Plaines Conservation Area has denied current clubs permission to serve their own lunch at the East Grounds. This includes lunches where the participating clubs were even asking for donations to help defray the costs. We have no reason to believe that this ruling will change when we run our Fall Test on October 14 and 15.

In line with their contract with the Department of Natural Resources, the family that provides lunch on the West Grounds has control over all foods served at the area. Although they are unable to provide the same type of service on the East Grounds, they have decided that club activity on those grounds is a possible source of revenue that helps them maintain the concession stand at the area. Individual clubs take away that source of revenue.

For those of you who will be on hand for our Fall Test, the club will provide beverages to support the handlers and volunteers. However, to offset the fact that we cannot sell lunch or accept donations for the lunch, it has been decided that we should have a free pot-luck lunch at our Fall Test on both Saturday and Sunday. We ask that each of us bring some dish to pass, whether dessert, salad, side dish, or entree.

Chapter member Erik Frederiksen has volunteered to be the coordinator for this host lunch. If you can bring a dish to pass, please let Erik know what you can bring and he will try to make sure we don't have 25 desserts, no salads, no side dishes and no entrees! He will also coordinate who is bring what on which day so we don't have food on Saturday and nothing for

Sunday! He can be contacted via email at efred66@yahoo.com or via his cell phone at 815.405.8969.

Frank and Angie Susi have already volunteered to bring Sloppy Joe sandwiches for Sunday's meal and Chuck and Sally Horvath will supply Italian Beef sandwiches for Saturday's meal. As we will have a grill and charcoal available, should anyone like to bring Brats or hot dogs, please coordinate with Erik. If we know what we are bringing, we can make sure we have necessary condiments as well as buns, bread, and/or utensils from those of you who might not wish to cook prior to the test date. Anything that you can bring will be greatly appreciated.



Versatile Hunting Dog Breed of the Month: Braque Francais

This month we are going to learn a bit about the Braque Francais! I don't know if any of you have noticed but our versatile breeds...at least those beginning with a "braq" are beginning to all look alike! But nonetheless, while they all seem to originate with some form of pointer (well, "braque" does mean "point"), they do have their differences.

As you may have gathered from my musings above, Braque Francais translates to "French Pointer". This breed may have origins as far back as the 14th century with obvious origins to a Shorthaired Pointer. It is worth mentioning that particular pointers in France are ascribed to their provincial origins, with eventual slight variations in the breeds (and why there is now a Braque du Bourbonnais, a Braque d'Auvergne, etc.). In fact, by the 1920's, even the breed known as the Braque Francais diverged into two separate types. There is the larger Gascogne type and the smaller Pyrenees type of Braque Francais. At the present time, only the Pyrenees type of Braque Francais is extant in North America.

At the present time, the Braque Francais is not an AKC recognized breed, a fact that is lauded by breed aficionados. The major registry for the breed in North America is the Canadian Kennel Club, as well as NAVHDA. Neither of these two organizations has established a breed standard, however. In France the breed is registered with the SCC (The Societe Centrale Canine). Before buying a Braque Francais, be aware that the SCC will not register any dog with common ancestors in the first three generations of its pedigree; in other words, the SCC prohibits line breeding. The CKC will not register any imported dog that cannot be registered in its native country and failure to acquire CKC registration may create difficulty in gaining registration with NAVHDA.

Regardless of their size (type), dogs should be taut-skinned, well-muscled and lean, with a short coat that feels slightly silky to the touch. Brown and white and brown roan are the acceptable color patterns. The breed standard states that the tail is usually docked, but it also allows for tails that are naturally short or full-length tails, as long as they are "well-carried."

For those of you with that keen eye, it has been remarked that the Braque Francais' head is shaped more like an English Pointer than like a GSP head.

As far as health issues, the breed has enjoyed relative freedom from genetic health defects. While hip dysplasia and eye defects are rather uncommon, the breed has shown to have some patella problems in unregistered dogs. On rare occasion, there have been some undershot teeth observed as well.

The temperament of a Braque Francais is considered friendly, sociable, gentle and submissive and who have no issues with household pecking orders. They are a sensitive breed that requires a soft hand rather than strict discipline.

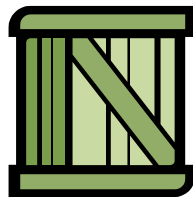
Thanks to Chad Mason and his article in Gun Dog magazine for the research provided for this article as well as the photographs I am including in this newsletter. Please do enjoy.





For Sale

2 Dog crates, one wire, one plastic sized for your BIG dog. \$10.00 each. If interested, please contact Ray Scaccia at 708.749.8843.



Member Dog Accomplishments

From Deb and Lark Frederiksen:

Our **Spirit Vom Riverwoods** passed her AZP Test in Michigan last weekend. This test is part of the German testing system and is an advanced field test required to deem a dog as a breedable.

Ch Last Acre Uli v Riverwoods (Uli) earned two more legs toward his AKC Master Hunter Title during the German Shorthair Pointer Club of Illinois Hunt Test. He now has four of the required six legs to achieve his Master Hunter title. Remember to look for him at the upcoming Eukanuba televised shows.

Last Acre Maximilian v Riverwoods (Max) won the Sweepstakes at the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Wisconsin's recent Specialty Show. He also was awarded Reserve Winner's Dog to a 5 point major that day. Max was awarded his second major win in Topeka, Kansas a couple of weeks ago, along with a couple of other points. At that show, Max also achieved a Fourth Place in the Sporting Group at the Puppy Match. He will be participating in our Natural Ability Test in October.

Last Acre Belle de Jour v Riverwoods (Lily) has been busy showing with her brother, Max. She has been consistently placing as the Reserve Winner's Bitch, so the big wins should be coming soon. The only Shorthair to beat her out in the recent Puppy Matches is Max. She will also be running in our upcoming Natural Ability Test.

To Ed Rygasciewicz...a little birdie tells me that your **Cora** recently ran in a grueling and tedious test up in Michigan. Can you share with us about the test, what is involved, and of course, how your Cora performed?

From Sharon and Ron Fitzpatrick:

Sure Point Start Spreading the News (True) went Winner's Dog, Best of Winners, and Best of Opposite Sex at the Elgin Kennel Club on Saturday, August 26th, for a three point major at the tender age of 7 months. True is owned by Tina Smock and Sharon Fitzpatrick.



Sure Point Smok'n Sensation JH (Skye) went Winner's Bitch on Sunday, August 27th. Skye is owned by Ron and Sharon Fitzpatrick.



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