

ILLINOIS NAVHDA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2006



Upcoming Schedule of Events

- 9/17 8:30 a.m. Utility Water Work
Seneca Hunt Club
- 10/8 8:30 a.m. Water Site Clean-up
Des Plaines Conservation Area
- 10/14-15
7:00 a.m. Chapter NF & Utility
Tests
Des Plaines Conservation Area



Chapter Board

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

Reflextions on Our Last Training Day

Our attendance once again was a large showing. We had members at the water site as well as the field site throughout the day. The day's training was focused on helping those members who are entered in some type of upcoming testing event, whether NAVHDA, AKC, or NADKC. We had some new faces out there observing our training session and hopefully we convinced them that we are the organization to join. Prior to our training day Ray Scaccia had a few moments and spoke about our test coming upon us here soon, and mentioned that the test is full as well as the need for everyone's help. Hopefully his hopes will be realized.

It seems those who are testing in our upcoming test seem to be really prepared and have been doing their homework through the summer, regardless of the hot weather we have had, and it really shows. This was my first training session in a long time and I was really glad to see the organization that has transpired through our membership over this past year. It makes me feel that this club's officers and board members are leading our membership down a path that helps our organization to reach its stated goals. This board and it's officers have made me proud to be the President of this Chapter by knowing that they have supported me in decisions and taking the reigns when it was asked of them. Without the help of these people, this Chapter would not be what it is today. The next time you have the opportunity to give thanks to them, remember it is this that keeps the wheels turning.

2006 NAVHDA Invitational

The 2006 Invitational is still in need of some workers. Please volunteer your time if you are able. Whether you are handling a dog or coming to be a spectator, working at the Invitational is not only a fun and productive way to see great dogs work, it is an outstanding way to learn more about the test. The Invitational is an International event, which means each of us plays a part in its success. At the least, if everyone who handles a dog volunteers to work at least one day, there would be a sufficient number of workers. For more information, please log on to <http://www.navhda.org/invetls.html>. To volunteer your services, contact: Jeff Rhodes, 1959 Millersburg Road, Wooster, OH 44691, 330.264.9253 or via email at gundog4@sssnet.com.

Attendee Information:

For your information, the following are photos of the Invitational water and field sites. Looks like a great site! If you would like to check it out at the NAVHDA site, please go to <http://www.navhda.org/invsite.html>.



If you plan on attending, please contact Curtis Fry to register for meals. All meals will be available at the test site. The Mingo Sportsman Club and the Buckeye Chapter members have gone to a great deal of effort to accommodate us, so please join us for dinners there, as well as your lunches. No pre-payment is necessary, but they do need an estimated head count. The particulars as well as contact information for Curtis are on the NAVHDA site.

NAVHDA site link: <http://www.navhda.org/invmeal.pdf>.

The following will be provided at the test site:

Lunches	\$6.00
Dinners (Thursday and Friday evening)	\$8.00 - \$10.00

Invitational Banquet

The Invitational Banquet will take place at the Mingo Sportsman Lodge on Saturday evening. The price per person is \$12.00.

The club needs a head count ahead of time for all the above meals. Please use the link below to complete an order form to be sent to Curtis Fry at frysdogs@aol.com. Prepayment is not required; payment will be taken at the Invitational.

With Deep Sympathy

It is with the deepest regrets and our greatest sympathies that we mourn the loss of Bobbie Applegate on August 2, 2006. Bobbie has served NAVHDA International Board of Officers and Directors as both our Registrar and our Copy Coordinator for the publication of the Versatile Hunting Dog magazine for many years. She will be greatly missed. Illinois NAVHDA Chapter members would like to express our sympathies and condolences to her family and friends at this very sad time.

Preparing and Participating in a Training Day

As you venture out with your dog to participate in a training day, it is important that you remember to come adequately prepared. This means both physically and mentally. NAVHDA training days are a participatory event with the members out there to help one another. That means each of us is expected to help in the day's events. We should be prepared to run our dogs and accomplish what we need to do, but it is imperative that we make sure we have helped the next individual accomplish what he or she needs.

As far as preparation goes, each of us should have most of the needed items with us when we pull up to the training site. This writer had prepared a "Field Training List" several years back that I review prior to leaving my house in the morning. It includes 18 items that I think I will need to train each day. The list starts with the dog and ends with a clothing change. In between, I list water containers and bowls, dog treats, birds, frozen or otherwise, bird bag, leashes, drag lines, and training leads of different lengths, retrieving dummies/launchers, training collars, orange hunting vests/hats, guns, shells (steel and lead), boots (leather and rubber), cooler for soda and water, drying towels, newspaper, repellent sprays, and first aid kits. Over the years I have added back-off jacks for honor training and bird launchers. I am amazed at

how many do not bring a long training lead for work in the field or have come without birds or ducks to use for our training.

From a participation standpoint, we should be planning on spending the majority of the day with your fellow chapter members. Circumstances may necessitate your leaving early; however, this should be the exception rather than the rule. Upon your arrival, make sure you let the training coordinator know what you would like to get done. Not always can everyone and everything be accommodated on a given day. If you are doing field work, make sure you have participated with the other groups in planting birds, gunning, making sure the next individual is ready, or whatever it takes to keep the training day going. When you move to the water, the same things apply. Make sure you have helped your fellow chapter member before you demand your turn.

It will benefit each of us to watch and be involved with other dogs. While our dog is crated and thinking about what he just did, we have the chance to learn from the efforts of the next handler. Each of our dogs, while different, needs the same consistency in our training. If you want to be welcomed back, become involved.

Fall is the Start of Busy Days at Des Plaines Conservation Area

As we move into the fall season, a lot of activity begins to take place at the Des Plaines Conservation Area in Wilmington, Illinois. Many dog organizations begin to hold events on the weekends and it gives us a chance to both participate and watch what is going on with other organizations and their dogs.

Beginning on September 4th, the Vizsla Club of Illinois will host a one day Hunt Test. That will be followed on September 9th and 10th by the LaSalle Brittany Club holding their AKC Hunt Tests. This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. on the West Grounds and is open to any pointing breed that is interested in attaining an AKC Junior, Senior, or Master Hunt title. Entries close September 5th; premiums can be obtained at www.lasallebrittanyclub.com.

During that same weekend, the National Shoot-to-Retrieve Association (NSTRA) will be holding a trial on the East Grounds. For additional information on NSTRA or a schedule of trials, go to www.nstra.org.

During the weekend of September 16th and 17th, the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Illinois will be hosting their AKC Hunt Test on the West Grounds. For a premium or information on this club, go to www.gspci.org or contact Hunt Test Secretary Bob Duke at 630.351.5167.

Hunt tests continue during September with the Illinois Vizsla Club of Illinois holding a test September 23rd and 24th and the German Wirehaired Club of Illinois on September 30th and October 1st.

The October schedule also includes Western Irish Setter Club test on October 7th and 8th, and a NSTRA trial the same weekend on the same West Grounds.

On October 14th and 15th, our own Illinois Chapter of NAVHDA will be hosting our test program on the East Grounds, beginning around 7:00 a.m. each day. On Saturday we will be testing the maximum (6) Utility dogs and on Sunday, (7) Natural Ability dogs and (1) Utility dog. It is a great opportunity to support our Chapter and see what is expected of the handlers and dogs, and hopefully provide a helping hand.

During that same weekend, NSTRA is holding a trial and the Weimaraner Club of Northern Illinois is holding an AKC Hunt Test on the West Grounds.

Beginning on November 1st, the Des Plaines Conservation Area will be open to hunting for pheasants. This is a great opportunity to provide your dogs with some work, sharpen up your own shooting, as well as bring out your spouse or some youngster to some fast action. Applications for permits began on August 3rd and the first drawing was held August 21st. Additional permits and first time permits can be applied for under a lottery system. For additional information, check out the Illinois Department of Natural Resources web site at www.illinoisdnr.org.

Northern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days

As in years past, the State of Illinois, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, runs a Hunting and Fishing Days event at Silver Springs State Park in Yorkville, Illinois. This Saturday and Sunday event runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"The Northern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days committee hopes to enlighten, guide and promote fellowship amongst individuals whose primary interest is to enjoy the natural resources through careful conservation of wildlife and the mindful preservation of natural habitat."

Having attended in years past, it is a great way to spend a full day with your fellow sportsmen along with your kids or grandchildren. Along with a kids' fishing pond, several groups will be putting on demonstrations, including the German Shorthair Club of Illinois, National Shoot-to-Retrieve Association (NSTRA), the Labrador Club of Illinois, and several other organizations. Besides the usual array of dogs, there were groups showing various types of hawks and owls, a group introducing children to the life of early explorers, along with several commercial groups with merchandise for the outdoor person. This is a free family-fun event that I think many of you will enjoy.

Bass Pro-Shops Fall Hunting Classic

Each year the Bass Pro-Shops Outdoor World in Gurnee, Illinois hosts a Fall Hunting Classic for the avid sportsman, hunter, and dog handler. Having made an effort to attend in the past, I certainly welcomed the opportunity to participate in this year's Classic by supporting the German Shorthair Club of Illinois' booth at the Classic.

Since they had indicated they would like me to bring my dog, I had to decide if she would be the calm dog that they would like to represent the breed. In the field I never think twice. But standing around a booth for hours as people walked up to talk to me was another thing. I knew she had a tendency to jump up and get excited around people, but I also knew I could trust her around children, adults, and get along with other dogs. So my decision was that I would bring her along with me.

When I arrived with my GSP, "**Chase**", I unloaded her dog crate into a shopping cart, informed my family that I would be tied up for (4) hours and walked into the store. There I was greeted by an individual that provided me with a name badge and pointed me in the direction of the booth. As we walked through the store with her on perfect heel at my side, I felt a growing confidence. It was then, for some unknown reason, she decided she should jump over the curtain separating us from the next booth. So I managed to meet my fellow exhibitors by starting off saying, "I'm sorry."

Well, even after that disastrous start things went extremely well. "**Chase**" was the perfect lady. In fact, several patrons commented on how calm she was. During the day she was hugged by adults and children alike. I, of course, was not hugged by anyone.

The exposure gave us the opportunity to talk about our GSP's, the activities they participate in, and their successes. We were able to pass out information on the German Shorthair Club of Illinois, along with information on the GSP Rescue Program. Certainly no story would be complete without talking about NAVHDA participation and what NAVHDA stands for. It was great to meet some new friends and have the chance to talk with some old ones.

Speaking of New Friends...

Meet new members Garth and Stacey Hull. Garth and his wife just relocated back to the Chicago area from Dallas about (18) months ago. They have two sons, Dillon (3), and Devin, now almost (7) weeks old. They also have two Small Munsterlaanders, Brie and Della. Both dogs have the same sire and dam but are a year and a half apart in age. Brie is 5 ½ years old and Della just turned 4.

Garth works as a Regional Manager for a clothing company and covers the Midwest and Eastern Coast territories. For him, time is limited and very precious when it comes to training his girls (and I don't mean Stacey!). Brie was Garth's first pointing dog and with the help of the Oklahoma Chapter of NAVHDA, the Texas Chapter, and many hours spent in the field during the first couple of years, feels that he has learned a great deal. He is not a professional trainer and looks forward to more training tips and ideas, but especially looked at our Chapter with the idea of rediscovering the camaraderie, passion, and the same love of dogs as he had seen in the Oklahoma Chapter.

Both Brie and Della have been NA tested, with Brie receiving a 101 Prize II, and Della receiving a 112 Prize I! Garth hopes to UT test them both some time next year and knows that he has plenty of training to do in the meantime.

Garth first contacted Chuck via email and then attended the June Training Day where he found everyone very helpful and inviting. Unfortunately, Garth could not join us for the July Training Day as FORTUNATELY and BLESSEDLY, that was the day his new little man decided to enter this world! Congratulations to you, Garth and Stacey and Dillon! And welcome to the world Devin!

Please take a moment to introduce yourselves to Garth at the very next opportunity. We hope to also meet Stacey and the boys...and the girls! To that end, here is your first introduction:



Illinois Chapter Sponsored Fall Test Dates

You may have noticed from our calendar above that we are soon to host the fall tests for Natural Ability and Utility for our wonderful versatile hunting dogs. To put on a successful test, we have need for many workers. If you can be of help and can spare your Chapter your time, please contact Ray Scaccia at 708.749.8843 or Chuck Horvath at 630.420.2681 and help our Chapter host a test weekend that exemplifies what NAVHDA strives to deliver. Either Ray or Chuck can let you know what our Chapter needs and what that job entails. Thanks!!!

NAVHDA Breed of the Month

Braque du Bourbonnais

This information is taken from the following website:

<http://dogbreedinfo.com/braquedubourbonnais.htm>

Next to France, the United States is the second largest breeders of this rare breed. The breed was greatly reduced between 1963 and 1970 with no registered litters. Obviously, this breed originates in France and can be traced back to 1598.

The Braque du Bourbonnais is a calm, affectionate family companion that is full of passion when it comes to hunting. They tend to be cautious, balanced, intelligent and cooperative in the field and do best when in a hunting home. They do need a large yard but prefer living in doors with their families and can become depressed and destructive if not allowed to share family life.

This breed has two colors, liver or fawn, and are strongly to moderately ticked with possible spotting. The Braque du Bourbonnais weigh from 39.5 to 55 lbs. for males and 35 to 48.5 lbs. for females. Height is between 20 and 22.5 inches for males and 18.5 and 22 inches for females.

Please take a moment to enjoy some breed photos from the internet...





Presenting...

Jim Isom's German Wirehaired Pointer, showing us how it is done!

Guess who's coming for dinner?



Rip explains the seating arrangements!

Dinner is served!



And Finally...Our Sponsors!

