



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS



www.mvnavhda.com

HOLIDAY ISSUE 2014

I hope your hunting season has been as enjoyable as mine has been. I decided to spend every weekend in October up in Pittsburg, NH or Eustus, Maine hunting with friends. Hunting with my 1-1/2 year old GSP "Grace" was a blast in more ways than one. Grace and I spent three days hunting with my lady friends from Yankee Chapter on our Annual "Women, Guns & Dogs Hunt". We even hunted during the nor'easter. It did not stop us one bit! We hunted in the pouring rain storm, discovered new covers and found birds!

What a pleasure to see my young dog Grace's "lights turn on" as she learned how to hunt wild birds, point and retrieve them. We were a great hunting team. I also had the pleasure of hunting with a few of Grace's litter mates "Gage" and "Gunner" who also learned a lot about wild birds. My 13 year old "KD" showed me that *"I still can hunt and know where the birds are!"* KD slept well after a day of hunting. Last but not least I took our newest addition to the family 4-1/2 month old "Hanna" hunting. She loved following KD and Grace in the covers, chasing leaves and jumping across streams. She also got her nose in some bird scent and picked up a downed grouse. We're on the road again with seven "On Point Kennel" GSPs and MV member Norm Roy heading for Nebraska to chase sharptail grouse and pheasants.



Carol Trahan
Chapter President

Merrimack Valley Chapter is in the process of setting up our Annual meeting in January. We'll keep you posted. Enjoy the up-coming holidays! See you in January.

Enjoy the rest of the hunting season! Carol T.

A "pit stop" on the way to Nebraska.





A few of the ladies in their favorite fall outfits.



A "Women, Guns and Dogs Hunt"— Oh yeah!

TO THE POINT:

Here we are, at the middle of seasons.

The daylight is going fast.



We've set the clocks back again and we're in the countdown to the end of the year. By the time this newsletter gets out, NH Woodcock and Snipe season will be closed.

Pheasant and Grouse will still be open until New Year's Eve. The first season of waterfowl will have come and gone and we're hoping that the ice will hold off long enough to have a "reasonable" inland (2nd) season. Options are dwindling.

Soon enough it will be time to sit in front of the crackling fire with the dogs at our feet—or in our lap—and read the works of Spiller, Hill, and latter-day authors while the snow falls outside. The smell of Hoppe's #9 will linger from putting up the guns, and leathers will be carefully oiled and put away until spring. Buttons will be sewn back on vests and jackets. New "ideas" will be worked on. Come to think of it, bird dogging never stops. It just takes a different form. Sometimes it's "the doing", other times it's "the romance". No matter, it's *all* good!!



Wishing everyone a very Happy Holiday Season!

Den [mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com](mailto:mvnvhda.editor@gmail.com)

PS I told my wife that if she'd put a couple of drops of Hoppe's #9 behind her ear, I'd follow her anywhere. Love that smell!

"NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS"

Page 4: Paul Bruk lays out information for early 2015—including our annual meeting. Don't miss it!

Page 6: Jessica has membership information .

And a recipe for Pheasant Florentine is shared!

Page 7: Joanna has info on test registration.

8-10: A few more pictures from the Invitational

Page 10: Editor's Favorite Holiday Issue Photo

Pages 12-25: Pictures, reports and articles-2014 Hunts

Now is my time to be Thankful:

In Chris Pope's piece, I said "thanks" to him for his support of the newsletter. Equally important, I want to make sure that I thank each of you who have given me pictures, comments, articles, and even friendly critiques. They all go to make the newsletter what it is—and I thank you for it all. Your participation is what breathes life into the newsletter!

When I sit down at our Thanksgiving dinner, one of the things I will be grateful for is the wonderful 'engagement' of the members of Merrimack Valley Chapter. Your support has been 'awesome'. I can't thank you enough.

Den



Hi All,

I hope that you are putting your training and testing to good use by getting out in the field, hunting with your four-legged companions and having a wonderful hunting season. I have a few Chapter Announcements:

Our **2015, Annual Meeting** will be held at **10:00am, on Saturday, January 3**, at the St. John Masonic Lodge, 351 Middle Street, Portsmouth. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. The Masons have graciously allowed us to hold our annual meeting at their lodge again this year. The hall is large, comfortable and has plenty of parking across the street. We will have a **pot luck lunch during the meeting**. Remember to bring something to share...a loaded crock pot, side dish, soda or dessert would be great.



Paul Bruk
Chapter Secretary

Chapter Elections: The following Director and Officer positions are open for election at the Annual Meeting:

Officers (3 Year Term): President; Secretary;

Directors (2 Year Term): Testing; Test Secretary; Judging; Delegate-at-Large (DAL);

Carol and Dave will both be seeking another term. Suzi and Joanna have indicated that although they enjoyed serving in their positions they would like others have an opportunity to take over and serve as Director of Testing and Test Secretary. Chris Pope has indicated that he would like to take over for Terry as our DAL. I have enjoyed being an active member of the Board and serving as your Chapter Secretary for the past 3 years. I will remain an active Chapter member but as I would also prefer to let someone else have the opportunity to serve as Chapter Secretary. I will not be seeking another term.

Please consider getting involved on the Board and let me know asap if you have an interest in running for one of these Board positions.

Membership: To be eligible to run for office or to vote in the Chapter election you **MUST** be members of both Merrimack Valley and NAVHDA. **Don't delay. Renew your memberships today!**

(Paul Bruk, MV Secretary—Continued)

The **NAVHDA 2015 Annual Meeting** will be hosted by the Pacific Northwest Chapter in Portland, Oregon during the weekend of January 16-18. Thank you, Carol Trahan for serving as our Chapter Delegate again this year.

The Chapter needs more Apprentice Judges. If interested in becoming an apprentice judge please contact Dave Trahan. We will hold a **Handler's Clinic next Spring** and another Invitational Training Day. More info to follow as it becomes available.

If you are looking for some **holiday gift ideas**, we still have plenty of Chapter shirts, hats, decals and pins. Contact our merchandise reps, Jerry and Nancy Roy for more info.

*****Please Note: The Nov. 29th Members' Day has been cancelled.**

And finally, we need to take a moment to thank the MANY dedicated chapter members, volunteers and sponsors who give their time and hard work to help train and test our dogs, serve as judges, tow our trailers and ATV's, handle our newsletter and website, serve up our fantastic Chapter meals, serve on the Board and the many, many others who keep the Chapter operating efficiently and growing. Merrimack Valley NAVHDA is what it is today because of your dedication and hard work. So on behalf of the Chapter, THANK YOU and keep up the good work! **Happy Holidays to you and your families!** I hope to see you next year at our annual meeting on January 3rd.

Paul Bruk
SECRETARY



Paul's Assistant, "Tess"



Jessica Barker

Membership

Hi there!

It's that time of year....time for (membership) renewal in the chapter. Remember, in order to vote at our chapter annual meeting, you must be a current member.

The application has been uploaded to the website [2015 MVNAVHDA Application](#) . You can mail or bring to the chapter annual meeting (Date TBD), whichever is more convenient.

Happy and safe hunting! See you in January!

Jessica shared the recipe below. If anyone has a recipe that they'd like to share, please send it to mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com and we'll put it in the MV Chapter Newsletter for

PHEASANT FLORENTINE

- ½ C Italian seasoned fine dry bread crumbs
- ¼ C dried grated Parmesan Cheese
- 8 boneless, skinless pheasant breast halves
- ½ C scallions, chopped
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 Tbsp flour
- 1 C milk or half/half
- 1 (10 oz) pkg frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 4 oz diced cooked ham (about 2/3 C)

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Combine bread crumbs and cheese; coat pheasant lightly with mixture. Arrange in 9x13 baking dish coated with cooking spray. Set remaining crumb mixture aside. In a pan, cook onions on medium high in butter for 3 minutes or until softened. Reduce heat to medium. Stir in flour; then stir in milk all at once. Cook and stir with whisk until thickened and bubbly; continue to cook and stir 1 more minute. Stir in spinach and ham. Divide and spoon mixture over each pheasant breast, pressing lightly into pheasant. Sprinkle with reserved crumb mixture. Spray crumbs with cooking spray.

Bake, uncovered, 30 minutes. Check for doneness. May need another 10 minutes depending on size of breasts. Do not overcook.

Adapted by Jessica Barker from a Chicken Florentine recipe by Susan Nicholson, Atlanta-based cookbook author.

Bon Appetit! We had this last weekend and served baked squash on the side for a starch :) Leftovers were just as delicious too!

Jessica



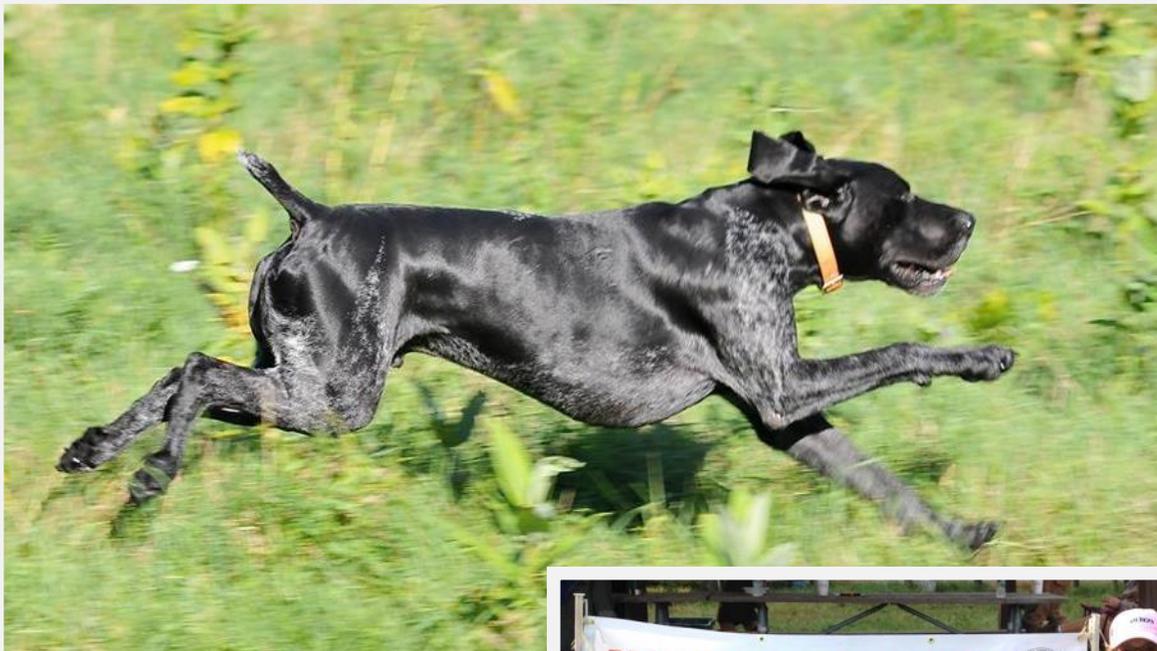
Joanna Korte
Test Secretary

Looking forward to 2015, please remember that **the first acceptable date for mailing your test entry is February 15th, 2015 (post marked).**

The tests do fill up fast, so if you want to run your dog in the fall of 2015, don't wait until late summer to send in your test entry and fee.

We now accept payment electronically by PayPal, with the test entries being emailed to me. The information is on our website under FAQs/Test Info.

Thanks for testing your versatile hunting dogs with the Merrimack Valley Chapter of NAVHDA!



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A Few Pictures from the Invitational



'Intense'

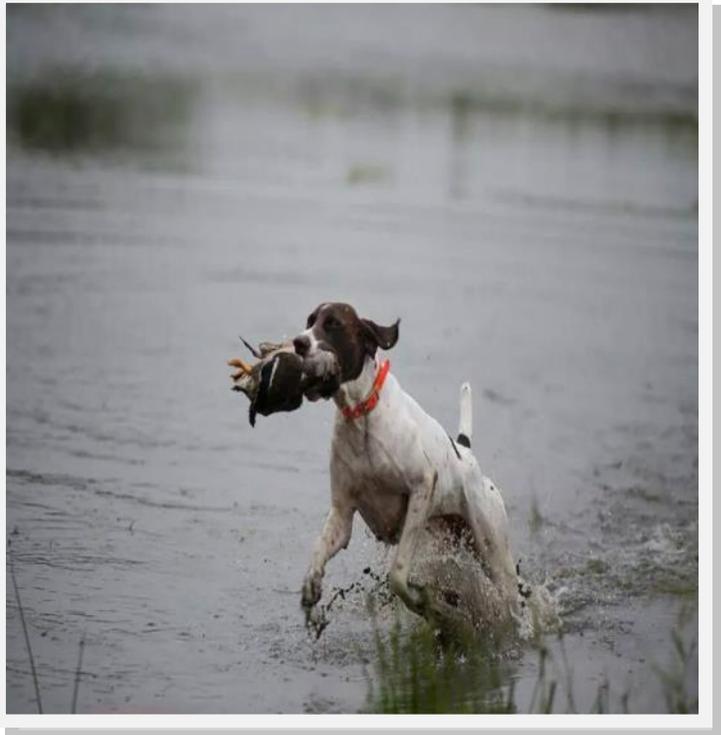




© Moisha Rajeeme Photography



Thinking about doing the
"Vulcan Mind-Meld"



Spenser at the Double Mark Invitational.

Photo taken by Brownell's



'EDITOR'S FAVORITE'



Sportsmanship

Gaia's first pointed-flushed-pointed hit grouse. She is actually writing a small book on the fine art of point for 4 seconds- track as fast as you can -flush- pure ecstasy. She will be doing paw autographs of this publication in December just prior to her intro to the training table . What gorgeous fun !



Paul Cronin sent us the following:

"I was hoping to send in a typical 'grip and grin' photo with my dogs and lots of birds.

Instead I have this with the comment: *'After 40 years and 9 dogs, I now know why some folks put vests on their dogs.'*"

Editor's Note: Ouch! Get well soon Charlie!





Suzi Moore
Director of Testing

Suzi's "Jilly" at **15-1/2** is doing great, her points are true and steady but tail down for there seems to be too much arthritis to get it up. She says, "*Old age ain't for sissies!*"



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“A TALE OF TWO HUNTERS” BY BILL COLLINS



Not the best bird season, but not the worst in the Maine woods. Already ate the woodcock.
NOTE: NO free range organic poultry were unintentionally harmed!

AND.....none were intentionally **UN**-harmed!

..... speaks to my lack of shooting skill cause I would have killed every one I shot at!

LIFE IS GOOD — MIKE ADRIAN

This is Brie, a three year old Small Munsterlander with some of her success while hunting in the North-east Kingdom.

We had three dogs, six guys and lots of fun and lots of birds during a week of hunting.

Life is good. Mike



THE LAB TANGLED WITH THE WRONG PUDELPOINTER

GENE SARTINI Defines a *REALLY* bad day of hunting.



I had the worst day of bird hunting ever this past Saturday. I went with a friend. We were reaching the end of the first field and we stopped for a minute because I heard some other hunters. The next thing I know their big black lab ran over to Brady and started growling at Brady then the fight was on. Brady grabbed the lab buy the neck and pushed it to the ground in a split second. The Lab had at least 20 pounds on Brady. The owner came running over with his gun and threatened to shoot Brady and threatened to shoot me. The guy wanted to fight. The other guys with him turned and left. My friend pushed the guy and told him, “You don’t want to do this because the warden is here.” I grabbed Brady and left. Probably not the type of information that you would like to receive, but it happened. Follow-up note: Thankfully, no one was hurt in the incident.



Mike Adrian's "Oka" with her first wild duck after a long cold retrieve. (SM)



Team Spenser

Congrats to Jessica for her "first ever" grouse.



© Wishes Ragtime Photography

Pittsburg notes—John Graf



Wolfsburg Felda and her first pheasant age 15 months. She is pointing and holding for grouse, a great nose for tracking pheasant, and still working on learning woodcock. I couldn't be happier. That's my short and happy story from Pittsburg.

ROAD NOTES FROM BILL AND MISSY

Trout and Sedge resting in Vermont's North-east Kingdom. Missy and Bill were there in September. It was beautiful but way too warm— in seventies and eighties!!



Then we were in the North Maine Woods Oct 1-11. Many birds, both grouse and woodcock where we (Bill and I) stayed near Ross Lake, very far north!!! 46th-47th parallel



Weekend of Oct 18-19 pheasant hunthappy Trout. Sedge is still on light duty, recovering from her tendon attachment surgery! Got our limit!



Editor's note: Check out the stock on that stack-barrel!

Chris Pope Reported Partway through Season

(Pittsburg, NH)

Attached are some photos recapping the first half of October and what has been so far, an incredible hunting season. Four of us opened the snipe season in September and came home with 8 birds. This was a superb treat. For those that have not tried snipe- they tend to afford much more open shooting which makes for a great pre-season warm-up prior to the early woodcock/grouse season when we all find ourselves with microseconds to gain a safe sight picture before they disappear through the green



Gunny with a retrieve on a snipe.

leaves! Also, snipe have a remarkable flavor quite different (and better in my opinion) from woodcock.

A regular group of us headed to hunting camp in Pittsburg for the first two weeks of woodcock and grouse and, despite lesser numbers of grouse, had a great time. "Gunny", our Griff, cut a pad running over an old dump at an abandoned farm in Columbia (my fault) so he was on the "DL" for four days wearing a bootie while I fished! "Gunny" thinks fishing is stupid.



Gunny on "Disabled List" pointing a brook trout at Boundary Pond.

But our most memorable moment so far was walking back to the truck after a quick woodcock hunt our last day in Pittsburg. I had Gunny at heel and an SUV with out of state plates

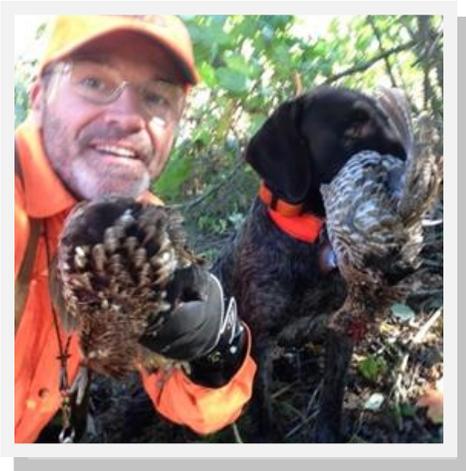
Stopped to talk and ask how the hunting was going. (AKA- they wanted intel on exactly where we were hunting and were there woodcock in the covert!) The two young men with 2 GSP's were very nice and we had a great chat. All agreed that grouse numbers were down and that we had not seen many "family groups". The passenger in the SUV looked down and asked what kind of dog Gunny was. I turned and looked at him and said a 'Griff' and then realized he was locked solid on point.

I made a comment that he was probably trying to lure my tired butt one more time back down into the covert. They laughed and headed down the road.



I then walked down over the bank and 5 grouse exploded in all directions.

We were lucky to get a couple.



Why those birds remained tight under that tree while we chatted for 5 minutes is beyond me. Not many family groups indeed!

It was great to see several Merrimack Valley Chapter members up north. I had a fun dinner at the Buck Rub Pub with Dave Trahan as we swapped hunting stories (all true).

Two buddies and I are headed west in a week or so to be schooled on pheasant! ...very humbling, can't wait! Hope all of the NAVHDA members are having a fun and safe hunting season. I can't wait for the newsletter! Thanks for getting that together!!

Chris

Thanks Chris—appreciate the support!

Den



Another shot of 'Brie' doing her thing in Vermont.

Nothing 'cheesy' about this photograph!



If yours truly had been 'stimulated' every time I missed this year,I'd be stuttering. Had to take action.

ACTUAL EMAIL "QUERY":

Dear Mister Varney,

I'm finally facing the fact that I've developed some bad habits and probably never learned good ones for wing shooting. It's gotten so bad that my dog sent me away for shooting "therapy". I need your help to get my "game" improved. Perhaps spring?

Den

ACTUAL EMAIL "RESPONSE":

Dennis, If your dog could talk he would tell you to take a lesson with me so you could hold up your end. I do lessons by appointment till we get plowable snow. At that point I wait till the snow melts.

I suggest you call me ...to discuss your needs and my schedule. *Brad*

PS Please tell your dog that help is just around the corner.

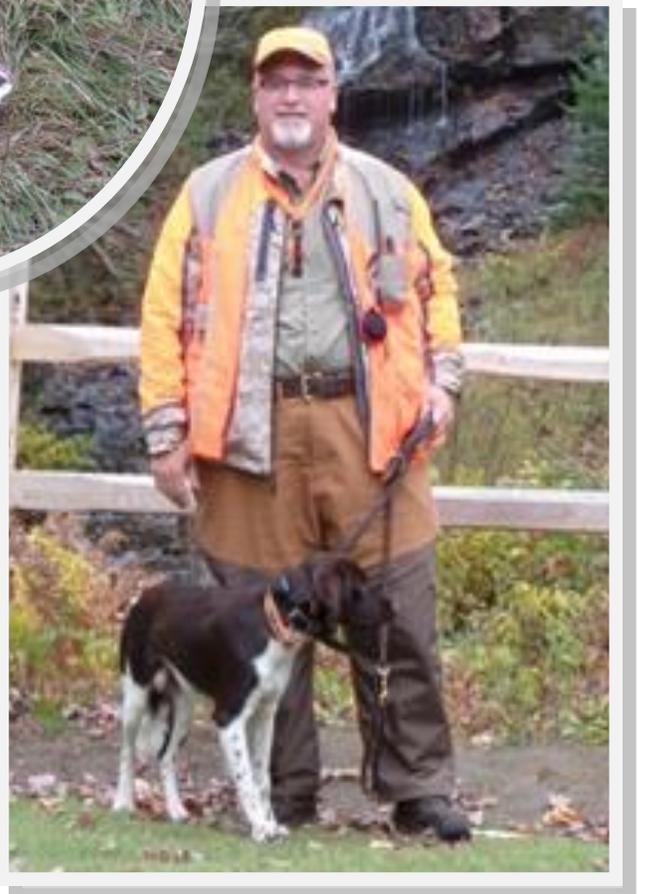
Editor's Note: Told dog. Dog brought phone.



PITTSBURG NEWS FROM TERRY LONG

The North Eastern SMCNA Region had a hunt in Pittsburg over the Columbus Day weekend. Most of the SM owners that showed are also MV members. Terry





Photos by Doug Ross demonstrate life with hunting dogs during the “off season”, as an entertaining family companion—as well as when they get down to business.



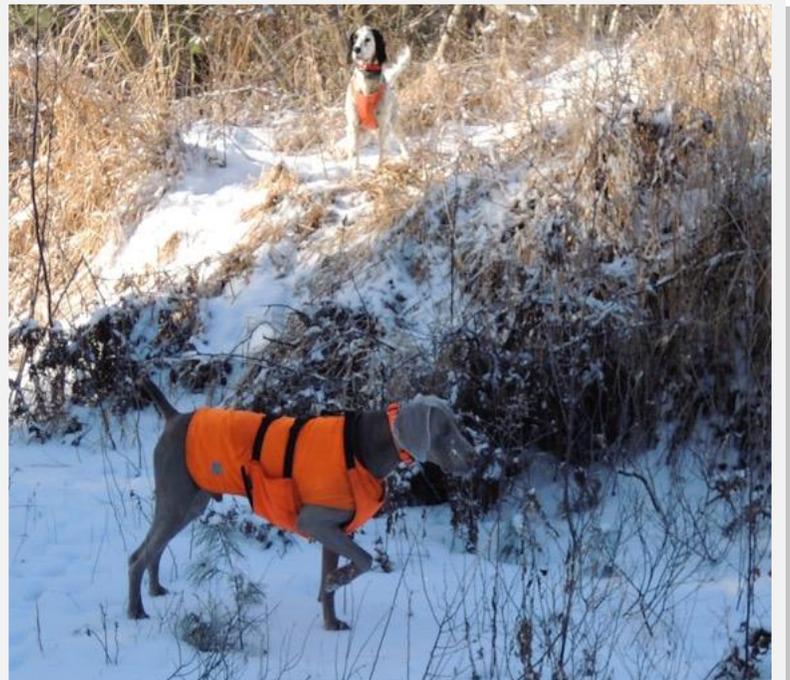
Jetta finds ways to entertain herself while in the yard, collecting horseshoe crabs.



“Pop! They just appear out of nowhere!” Chance and Jetta are fascinated whenever the boss makes popcorn.



No Chance, that’s not a weird dog.
It’s a llama.



It’s right in there boss! Right...in...there!!!



Weimaraners showing that they know how to hunt as well as play!



Gene Sartini wrote:

While hunting Copicut Woods this past Saturday, my daughter and I ran into Walter Ainsworth who owns Schatzie, Brady's sister.

Night and day difference!

Thanks Gene! This clearly illustrates the "wrestle" the Pudelpointer people are having with coat variation. Some consider it a problem. I consider it a choice. Both beautiful in their own right.

Den

I hear what you are saying. They couldn't be more different. They vary greatly in drive also. Brady has very high drive she has a medium drive Gene

*You're both grinning and that's what it's all about!
Happy for you both,*

Den



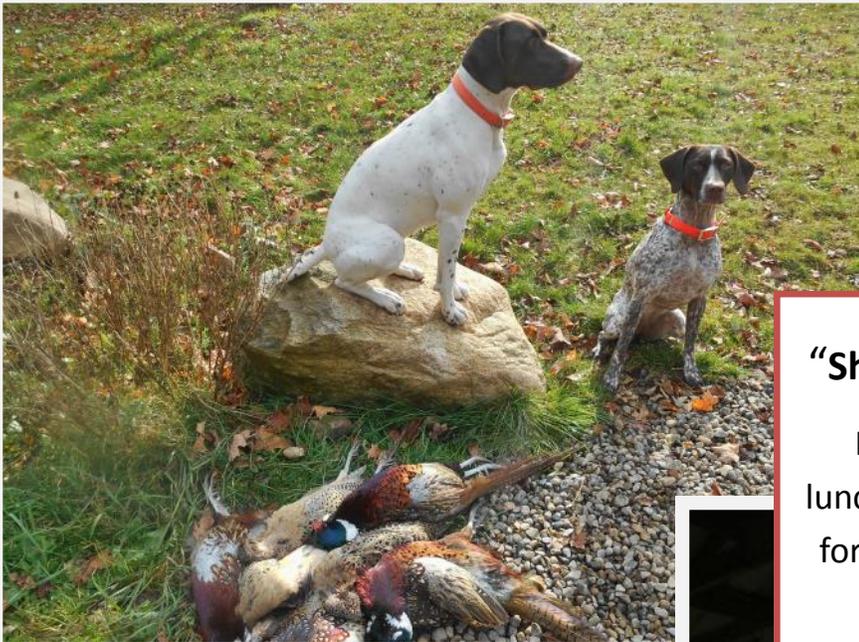
Brother and Sister



'K-Lee'

We had a very good weekend Sedge, Trout and I.

Missy Correia - November 8-9



“She who must be obeyed”.

Kathy Duffy protecting the luncheon spread she has laid out for the Sunday lunch at the Fall test.

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**November—Chris Pope & Gunny “Check in” from SoDak
(Check out the snow! Ed.)**



**Happy holidays from Gunny and Chris
from South Dakota—and from the rest of the
Pope and Day families, holding down the fort.
Kris**

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