



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

Check us out on the web at the three “links” below!

www.mvnavhda.com

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SPRING 2017

Warm weather is right around the corner, and with it, field training at Sharpe’s Farm! MV Chapter’s year got off to a great start with Indoor Training at Halona Stables in February and March. We had a wonderful time—as the pictures show on our Facebook Page and in the newsletter. Also, Bob Fee “led the charge” on getting sweat-shirts with the NAVHDA and chapter logo. Thanks Bob!

Right when I thought that we were having as much fun as humanly possible, NAVHDA headquarters sent us a flyer for “Youth Leadership Development Opportunity”! See the next page, and you’ll see what they sent out. Offers for 10 scholarships! NAVHDA is certainly looking to the future, and we are along with them! I so enjoy the “Youth Hunt” every year.



Let me make a comment about the website, mvnavhda.com. This is the place that we use as our source of information for the chapter. It is kept up-to-date by our webmaster, Mike Trull. If you need to know when an event is being held, where it is being held; if you need to know information about testing, test results, or clinics; if you want to read past newsletters, annual meeting minutes, or look up a fellow member; the information and resources are in the website. We encourage you to make the most use of the website. It is our “treasure-trove” of chapter information. The fun stuff is on the Facebook page (MVNAVHDA) and on Shutterfly (MVNAVHDA).

See you soon at Spring Training where the fashion statement is usually “rubber boots”!!

Carol T.

BYO LUNCH (!) ON TRAINING DAYS — TEST DAYS WILL BE CATERED

or, said another way,

LUNCH IS PROVIDED ONLY ON TEST DAYS

BYOL



YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever has developed an extensive youth program that includes “ Youth Mentored Hunts, Youth Habitat Projects, and Youth Leadership Development. In May of 2017, Pheasants Forever is hosting an educational event, called “Focus on Forever” which is a “train the trainer” type event designed specifically for conservation volunteers and agency staff who are passionate about sharing our outdoor traditions with youth and their families. Participants will learn best practices for a variety of activities, events and programs that engage youth and families. [CLICK HERE TO SEE THEIR FLYER.](#)

Presenting Sponsors of the event include, NAVHDA, Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Midway Foundation, Cabela’s Outdoor Fund, National Wild Turkey Federation and Nebraska Game Parks.

The event will be held May 19-21 at the Eugene T. Mahoney State Park, Ashland Nebraska. For more information about the (Mahoney) wonderful location, please visit their [website.](#)

Any NAVHDA Member is encouraged to attend the event. NAVHDA is providing up to 10, \$250 scholarships for NAVHDA Members who are interested in attending the event. The \$250 is intended to cover the entry fee as well as lodging and meal costs at the facility where the event is hosted. *Any NAVHDA Member who attends the event will be responsible for their own travel and ancillary costs.*

Each participant will have the opportunity to attend various seminars throughout the weekend provided by Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and National Turkey Federation. Some examples include:

- Hosting High Quality Mentor Hunts
- Shooting Sports Clinics for Beginners
- Coaching a shotgun team
- Bird Dog Field Days
- The New Hunter Adoption Model
- Hands-on Habitat Education
- Outdoor Skills Instructor 101
- New Hunter Pipeline Clubs

In order to be as fair as possible, the NAVHDA Youth Committee has decided on the following process for distributing the scholarships:

1. Each Chapter President and/or Officer is asked to share this information regarding this event with your chapter members to gather interest.
2. Any interested participants are asked to [email](#) our Central Office no later than April 7, 2017.
3. Preference will be given to individuals who are potentially hosting a youth event within your chapter in the future or involved with NAVHDA youth related activities.
4. Any person who attended the Focus on Forever event in 2016 is NOT eligible for a scholarship in 2017, but is encouraged to attend the event.
5. If the 10 scholarships are not filled, we will then open up the remaining scholarships to any NAVHDA Member who is interested in attending.

All interested participants are asked to [email our Central Office](#) no later than April 7th, 2017.



From the Test Secretary:

The Spring and Fall tests are filling up fast! Get your test entry and fee in as soon as possible if you are planning on running your dog in a test this year.

Thank you,

Joanna

Below are facsimiles of the Chapter sweatshirts for those who ordered before the March 18 deadline. NAVHDA logo on the back and MV Chapter logo on the front.

Pullover on left and the zippered model is on right. Pick-up and payment can be on April 22 Training Day. Thanks to Bob Fee who 'captained' the effort.



Discover WILD New Hampshire Day Set for Saturday, April 29, 2017

Merrimack Valley Chapter will have the opportunity to participate in the Discover Wild NH Day again. Last year, members and their dogs spent the day interacting with the public. There was a great 'surge' in the following clinic's attendance after the "Wild NH" day last year, when many visitors —several who became new members—came to Sharpe's Farm to see 'first hand' what we do. Now that we've been through one of these festivals, chapter members have a better idea of how to make things go. ***If you would like to help in this public relations/public education/outreach activity, please contact David Trahan.***

Kids and adults alike enjoy this annual festival at Fish & Game Headquarters! **Admission is free!**

Here are a few photos of previous Wild NH Days: [CLICK HERE](#) to see NHF&G web page.



In The Weeds

“My bad!!!”

I got a call the other day from a member that told us we were unnecessarily costing people money and ink by using the shaded backgrounds on the newsletter. *Thank you* for letting us know! (*You know who you are.*) We didn't stop to consider that some folks printed their newsletters in order to have a “paper copy”. In this issue, you will see that we've reverted to the plain white background. Again, thanks for letting us know. It's better for members who print out the newsletter, and it's easier for us. We appreciate friendly, constructive critiques to help us keep the newsletter working *for* members—and not against them.

I think it was Ben Franklin who said “*That which works is infinitely superior to that which does not.*” (If he didn't, ..he should have.)

Check out “Dad's Elsie”—a nice contribution by Doug Ross. I love the idea of a resurrected firearm! [Page 16](#)

The indoor training was a great success. Lots of folks had a really good time. [Page 9](#). More photos on MVNAVHDA's Facebook page. A special thanks to Carol Trahan for providing the photos!



HELDCA (The Hopkinton-Everett Lake Dog Club Association... i.e. the “multi-dog club organization that the federal government allows to oversee the Sharpe's Farm Site) is having its (our) annual clean-up day. Folks will meet at Sharpe's Farm pavilion at 8am, and clear trails, pick up fallen limbs, pick up any garbage that may have landed there and , in general, make the dog training sites ready for use.

HELDCA clean-up day is Saturday, April 8th.

Dress appropriately. Some clean-up days are very cold, some wet, some warm. **Chris Pope** is our “delegate-at-large” for HELDCA. Contact Chris if you have any questions. See you there!

Rain date: April 9th.

Last year was a “significant project” HELDCA year. You can see the 2016 article [here](#). (Then go too page 6.)

One of my Army buddies, Jeff Lynn, found a solution to the squirrels raiding his bird feeder. Says it's a better perimeter defense than claymores and phu gas. (Seems like we're seeing a lot of these cats lately.)



Den

Den may be contacted at MVNAVHDA.editor@gmail.com



ATTENTION

All Sporting Dog Owners

GPS-ENABLED DOG TRACKING SYSTEMS ARE CREATING A SAFETY CONCERN FOR LANDOWNERS. CORRECTIVE ACTION IS REQUIRED FOR THESE DEVICES TO BE ALLOWED USE WITHIN THE NMW REGION.

If you are using a GPS-enabled dog tracking device such as the **Garmin Astro** or **Garmin Alpha** tracking system, be advised that the collars for these systems operate on the same MURS (Multi-Use Radio Service) frequencies used by logging trucks for monitoring road traffic. These collars create audible interference on truck radios that are within range of a collar operating on the same MURS frequency (i.e. channel). The 5 frequencies used by the MURS radio and Garmin systems are:

MURS Channel 1 = 151.820 Mhz / MURS Channel 2 = 151.880 Mhz / MURS Channel 3 = 151.940 Mhz

MURS Channel 4 = 154.570 Mhz / MURS Channel 5 = 154.600 Mhz

The first four frequencies (channels 1-4) are used primarily for monitoring road traffic with each road system in the NMW region being assigned a specific MURS channel (see back for road channel list). **MURS Channel 5 has been designated as an acceptable channel for dog collars to operate on.**

It is important that you make sure your dog(s) collars are operating on MURS channel 5, and by no means should a collar be operating on a channel used by the road system you are hunting or traveling on. To check what channel your dog's collar has been programmed to operate on, you will need to check the channel number (Alpha system) or Dog ID (Astro system) assigned to the collar by using the following information:

ALPHA SYSTEM: The first number of the Alpha channel (followed by a Dash Number) indicates which MURS channel the dog collar is using. For example: 3-29 indicates MURS channel 3 is being utilized, 1-18 indicates MURS channel 1, 2-7 is channel 2, etc. Therefore anyone using the Alpha system should have a 5 as the first number for that collar.

ASTRO SYSTEM: The Astro system assigns an ID number (0-49) as opposed to using a channel number like the Alpha system, but the MURS frequency can be determined from the ID number by using the following chart:

Dog ID Number 0-9 (151.820 Mhz) = MURS Channel 1

Dog ID Number 10-19 (151.880 Mhz) = MURS Channel 2

Dog ID Number 20-29 (151.940 Mhz) = MURS Channel 3

Dog ID Number 30-39 (154.570 Mhz) = MURS Channel 4

Dog ID Number 40-49 (154.600 Mhz) = MURS Channel 5

Collars that are not operating on the proper channel will need to be manually assigned to channel 5 (Alpha) or a Dog ID Number from 40 to 49 (Astro). Please consult your owner's manual on how to do this manually or contact the NMW office (435-6213) for assistance.

MURS SAFETY RADIO FREQUENCIES REVISED 2-15-13 afc
INFO ON POSTED SIGNS HAS PRIORITY OVER INFO ON CARD
THESE FREQUENCIES ARE FOR BUSINESS USE ONLY.
NO INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE OR CHIT CHAT.
CHANNELS 1-4 FOR ROAD TRAFFIC MONITORING.
CHANNEL 5 FOR OPERATIONS- DELIMBERS, PROCESSORS.
FREQUENCIES: 1=151.820, 2=151.880, 3=151.940, 4=154.570, 5=154.600.
ALL WITH PL TONE OF 100.0 MAXIMUM OUTPUT 2 WATTS

<u>NORTH OF REALTY RD</u>	<u>CHAN</u>	<u>SOUTH OF RR (CONT)</u>	<u>CHAN</u>
HAFEY ROAD	4	ST. JUSTE OR STETSON RD.	1
ESTCOURT RD.	1	ST. AURELIE RD.	2
CAMP 106 RD.	2	CARTER & NINE MILE RD.	3
LAKE RD (18-10)	4	NARROW POND ROAD	4
ROBINSON RD.	3	RUSSELL STREAM	3
MICHAUD FARM ROAD	3	TRANS CANADA/GRAND MARCHE/	4
BLANCHET/MAIBEC RD.	2	GOLDEN RD.	1
ROCKY BROOK RD.	1	RUSSELL MOUNTAIN RD.	CB-19
ST. FRANCIS RD.	2	RAGMUFF & CAUC. RD	CB-19
HEWES BROOK. ROAD	3	490 RD.	CB-19
JACQUE OUELLET RD.	4	BRAILY BROOK RD.	CB-19
SOUTH BRANCH RD.		BAKER LAKE RD.	CB-19
(ROCKY TO REALTY)	2	GUY ALLEN RD.	CB-19
REALTY RD.	3	NORTH BRANCH ACCSS RD	CB-19
THIBODEAU RD.	4	& NORRIS BROOK RD.	CB-19
THIBODEAU CONNECTR	4	<u>WEST OF ROUTE 11 (OTHER)</u>	
17 MILE RD.	4	CAMP VIOLET RD.	2
DEPOT RD.	1	GRAND LAKE RD. T8-R5	3
THERIAULT ROAD	4	LANE BROOK RD.	3
<u>SOUTH OF REALTY RD</u>		HUBER RD.	2
PINKHAM RD.	4	SNOWSHOE PD. ROAD	3
JACK MOUNTAIN RD.	2	<u>EAST OF ROUTE 11</u>	
CHASE BROOK ROAD	4	BLACKSTONE RD.	1
OXBOW RD.	2	SULLIVAN RD.	1
47 MILE CONNECTOR	2	BEAVER BROOK RD.	1
CYR RD.	2	BLACK WATER RD.	1
POULIN RD.	1	TIE CAMP RD.	1
PRIESTLY CUT-OFF	1	DUCK POND RD.	1
LEDGE ROAD (T7R14)	2	HARVEY SIDING RD.	1
CHURCHILL DAM RD.	1	NUMBER NINE LAKE RD.	1
522/PELL & PELL ROADS	3	ST. CROIX RD.	1
TELOS / HAYMOCK RD	3	DUDLEY BROOK RD.	2
CRAIGVILLE RD	3	BOGAN BROOK RD	2
UMBAZOOKSUS ROAD	4	UMBAZOOKSUS ROAD	4

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AND AROUND THE MERRIMACK VALLEY:

- **Concord NH**—Moose Lottery now open. To see where you can enter the New Hampshire moose hunt lottery, visit www.huntnh.com/hunting/moose.html The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department has proposed to reduce statewide moose hunt permit issuance from 71 in 2016 to 51 in 2017. Deadline is May 26. See NHF&G website for more info.
- **Augusta ME** — Maine Moose Permit Lottery is underway. Lottery ends May 15, 2017. <http://www.maine.gov/online/moose/>
- **CONCORD, N.H.** -- Are you are interested in sharing your interest in wildlife and aquatic resources with New Hampshire schoolchildren? Then consider becoming a Wonders of Wildlife Program (WOW) volunteer docent for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department! A new series of six docent training sessions begins March 16, 2017. Volunteer applications and a Spring 2017 training schedule are available on the Fish and Game website at www.wildnh.com/education/wow-docents.html.
- **DURHAM, N.H.** -- The N.H. Fish and Game Department and UNH Cooperative Extension are seeking volunteers to help restore the habitat of the endangered New England cottontail rabbit. <http://newengland.stewardshipnetwork.org/events-training?jobId=a02G000000aqibkIAA>
- **Montpelier VT** — **Special Snow Goose Harvest Opportunity:** Vermont's spring snow goose hunt will be held from March 11 through April 28. <http://vtfishandwildlife.com/cms/one.aspx?portalid=73163&pageid=165931> (Free permit required)
- **Montpelier VT** — A series of recent muskellunge catches by anglers ice fishing on northern Lake Champlain have provided fisheries biologists from Vermont Fish & Wildlife with additional confirmation that muskie stocking and restoration efforts in Missisquoi Bay and the Missisquoi River are proving successful. <http://vtfishandwildlife.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=73163&pageId=7220390>
- **Montpelier VT** — The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is hosting two free turkey hunting seminars this spring - one on Saturday, April 1, the other on Sunday, April 2. <http://vtfishandwildlife.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=73163&pageId=7211336>
- **Augusta ME** — **Camp North Woods** will again be held at and hosted by the [University of Maine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond](http://www.umaine.edu/4h/camp-north-woods/). Camp staff and instructors will include Maine Game Wardens, Fisheries and Wildlife Biologists, Recreational Safety Coordinators, Information and Education staff as well as staff from Bryant Pond. A co-ed camp for children ages 8-10 will be held July 16-21, 2017 and a co-ed camp for children ages 10-12 is planned for July 30-August 4, 2017 . Application deadline is April 3rd. For more information about Camp North Woods please visit them online at bit.ly/campnorthwoods or email Brittany Humphrey at brittany.humphrey@maine.gov
- **Holderness, NH** — **Free youth day programs are being offered once again this summer at Owl Brook** Hunter Education Center in Holderness. These programs give both boys and girls ages 10-15 the chance to learn about shooting sports, bow-hunting and other outdoor skills. Sessions will be offered in July and August. Owl Brook is operated by the NH Fish & Game Dept. Sessions are free of charge. Pre-registration is required and will be conducted on a first-come, fist-served basis. Space is limited—enrollment is limited to 20. Please register early. Registration opens April 1st. <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/hunting/owl-brook.html> Notice can be read at <http://archive.mailermailer.com/view/215808614r-ebe4e998%2a1229144h-ef662c9c>
- **CONCORD, N.H.** -- The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department will hold public hearings on proposed rules to reduce moose permit issuance for the 2017 moose season. Wildlife season-setting rules are subject to the state's rulemaking process. For dates, times and further information, [click here](#)
- **CONCORD, N.H.** -- Wildlife watchers are reminded to report their winter wild turkey sightings. A link to the survey is published at www.wildnh.com/surveys/turkey.html. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's Wild Turkey Flock Survey is open through March 31. To see announcement -> [TURKEY.HTML](#)



MVNAVHDA 2017 ANNUAL MEETING



Due to the nature of the discussions and reports at an Annual Meeting, the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting—and the specifics of the financial reporting, etc. Have been posted on the “members only” portion of the chapter website, mvnavhda.com . To access this report, click on the “Members Only” tab, and provide your username and password as provided by our membership department when you paid your dues for 2017. You will then have access to the annual meeting minutes, membership roster, and other pieces of information.

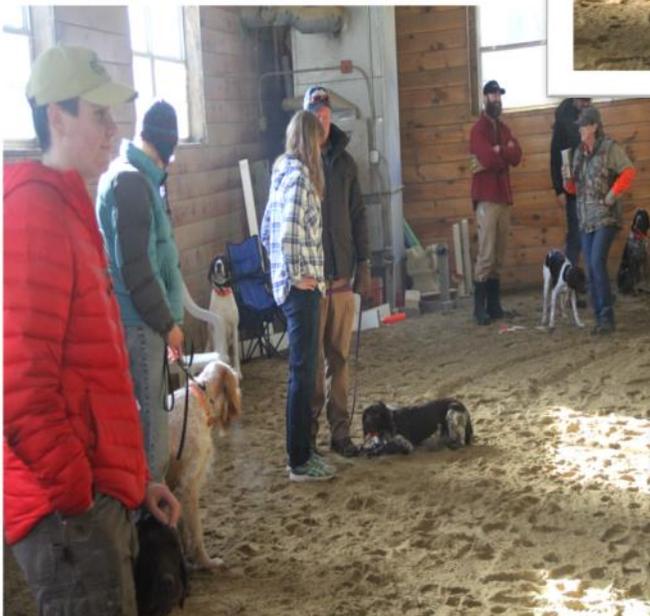
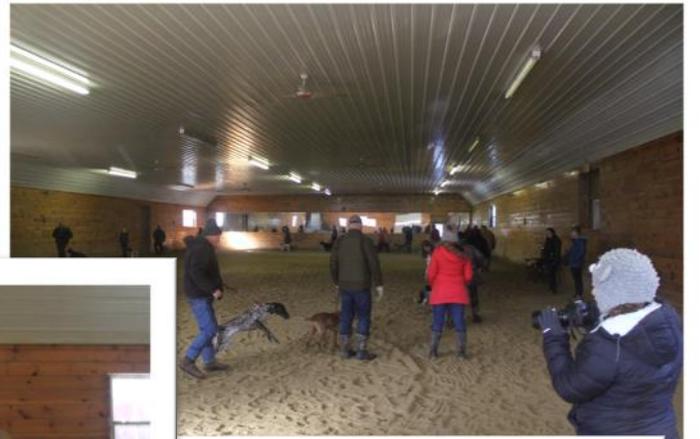


MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER INDOOR TRAINING CLINIC was

held in February and March at the Halona Stables in Deerfield. It was a well-attended, fun event of “training the trainer” with new pups and old hands all gathered together. This looks to be a great winter activity and a great time for new pups to mix and mingle with groups of other dogs—all leading to improved socialization and obedience. Great work everyone! Here are a few photos of the event. Many thanks to Carol T who shared pics taken from her phone! (More pictures on Facebook.)



Indoor Training Days (Continued)



NORTHWIND ENTERPRISES, the folks in Wisconsin who publish “timber cut maps” (my term) both in paper and digital format have launched a new *free* digital magazine. It’s called “On Point Focus” . (Of course, they will promote their products.....)

So far, it seems interesting.



<https://www.northwnd.com/on-point-magazine>

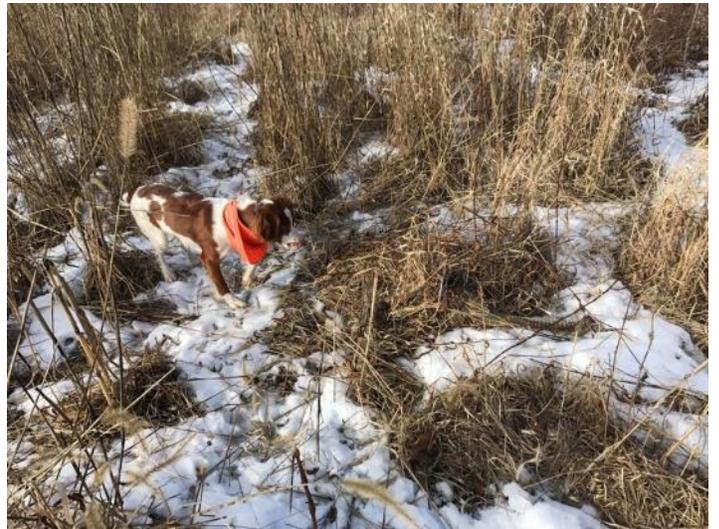
If you’re a bit nerdy like me, you’ll enjoy reading *one more* source of info on how to locate “cover”—especially using technology. If nothing else, it sure beats “Golden Girls” re-runs. Den



Cyrus—one of the new students in MV Chapter



Cyrus Launching — and those beautiful ears!!



Patrick Melvin went hunting after the MV Annual Meeting. Looks like it was a good time!



Pictures of Dave and Carol and Noah from the International Annual Meeting sent in to us by Jessica Barker. It looks like Noah is getting into the swing of things! Noah Forman is our “point man” for the local NAVHDA youth initiative that Merrimack Valley Chapter hosts in the fall.

Reproduced with AJ's permission.
Some really great thoughts as we
go towards this fall! Den



Hunting photography has a strong foundation in the hero shot and the upland community is no exception.

So what is the hero shot? In marketing terms, it is a single picture that glorifies a product or image a company wished to portray. Hunting photography for the most part has been a little looser in its definition as the clear majority of photographic content is from [amateur photographers](#) (which there is nothing wrong with). We all wish to [celebrate our days afield](#) and remember good times with friends and family.



That translates to an image of us and our upland bounty. But times have changed, and so has the way we display our adventures through hunting photography, although many of us think our culture has been a bit high-jacked by what we believe is a “political correctness” movement. The more accurate depiction is that our culture is finally feeling the effects of modern technology and (I hate to use the word) hipster branding.

This new era in hunting photography is not necessarily a change in “political correctness” but rather a change in ideology. It is new minds approaching an old subject in creative ways. The availability of affordable high quality cameras has fueled that creative playing field. What was once only a tailgate display of upland bird success is now taking on an inspiring and visually stunning angle.



Social media ([like Instagram](#)) is now home to upland hunting photography creativity wars. One photo inspires the next, which pushes the bar higher and higher. Close angles glorifying the bird rather than the hunter as we celebrate a tradition that has some of the strongest foundations in conservation. This visual appeal has had some positive reaches on upland hunting culture.

With a huge insurgence of new demographics flocking to upland hunting like women, hipsters, environmentalists, and sustainably conscious people. Many have been introduced through creative platforms over traditional hunting outlets. Often this new hunter mentality comes without the “way things are done” and more with “how can I individualize this experience.” It is a time for celebration as this is exactly what the upland community needed.



We are living in a revival of upland art, fueled by individuals not afraid to reinvent the past. Nothing excites us more than seeing a tradition carried on through creation. Do not get us wrong the old ways of photography and the “hero shot” will always have a home. But it is this change in hunting photography that will drive upland traditions to a new generation. This “branding” conscious approach is what appeals towards none hunters and creates a bridge between misunderstanding.

It is a driving mechanism that needs to be embraced by large upland hunting companies to help deliver not only upland hunting to a new golden age. But by growing our numbers ultimately helping the call to conservation movements. So next time we have a bird in hand, do not be afraid to do it your own way and share with the world and remember to tag #ProjectUpland.

About the Author / [A.J. DeRosa](#)

Founder/Creative Director of Dangerous Cow Publishing. A.J. DeRosa is an American filmmaker most notably for the award winning Project Upland Bird Hunting Series. He is also the critically acclaimed author of The Urban Deer Complex and considered one of the foremost authorities on suburban deer behavior in the country. A.J. has a passion for sustainable living and the fight for conservation. (‘AJ’ visited our Youth Day event in 2016. He took videos which will be part of this year’s Project Upland.)

Join Merrimack Valley Chapter members as we display and demonstrate

Versatile Hunting Dogs! *For more information please contact David Trahan.*

Bring the family to
**DISCOVER
WILD
NEW HAMPSHIRE
DAY**



**Free
Admission**

**Saturday, April 29, 2017
10 AM – 3 PM**

**Rain or
Shine**

Connecting You to Life Outdoors



**Join N.H. Fish and Game
and our partners for a day
exploring Wild New Hampshire!**

- Conservation and outdoor organizations
- Live animals and big fish
- Children's activities
- Archery • Casting • Crafts
- Fishing and Hunting Expo
- Food concessions



Hosted by:
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
Sponsored by:
**Wildlife Heritage Foundation
of New Hampshire**



Fish and Game Headquarters • 11 Hazen Drive • Concord, NH • wildnh.com

DIRECTIONS: Take Exit 14 off Rte. I-93; head east on Loudon Road; at top of hill, turn left onto Hazen Drive, follow signs.

NO PET DOGS ALLOWED

Be Responsible in Bear Country --

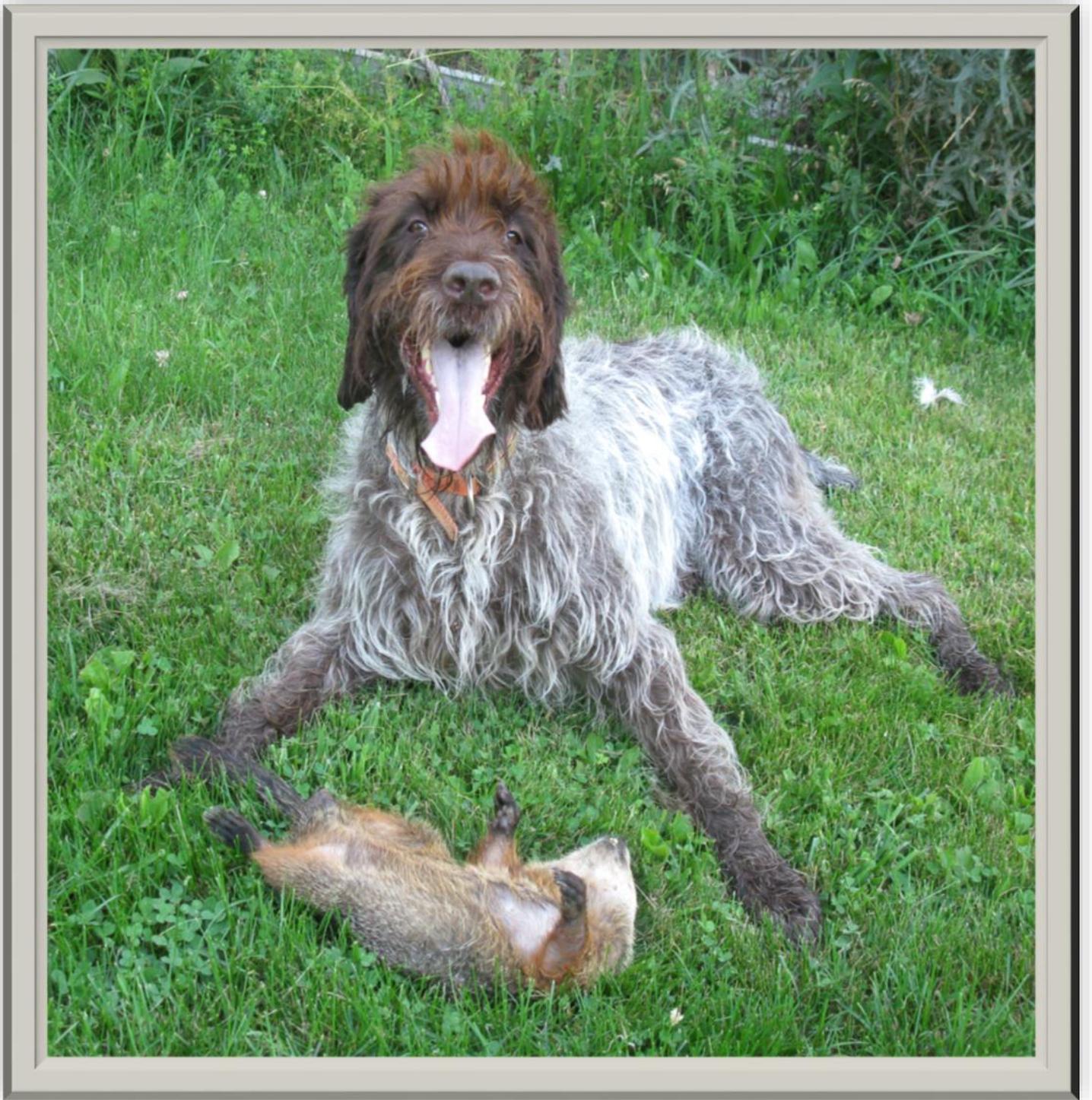
Take down Birdfeeders *Earlier* this Spring



CONCORD, N.H. – Despite a recent March Nor'easter, bears are becoming active in many areas of the state. Officials are asking the New Hampshire public to be responsible and remove bird feeders and secure other backyard attractants. Although March 31 is the traditional deadline for ending winter bird feeding activity, more mild winters and the earlier arrival of spring conditions warrant modifications.

"Den emergence by bears appears to be a couple of weeks earlier this year and the upcoming stretch of mild spring weather will cause bears to become active," said Andrew Timmins, Bear Project Leader for the NH Fish and Game Department. "The strong spring sunshine, longer days and warmer temperatures stimulate many wildlife species, including hungry bears. As bears start to get active, let it serve as a reminder that it is time to put the birdfeeders away until next fall."

Reports of bear activity and sightings have become more frequent in recent days and many people are reporting seeing bears at their birdfeeders, according to Timmins. "By taking action now, you can prevent attracting a bear to your home. Do not wait for a bear to get the birdfeeder and then respond. Doing so encourages foraging behavior by bears near residences. A single food reward will cause the bear to return and continue to search the area for food. Averting conflicts with bears requires increased responsibility and proactive behavior by the public. Feeding birds during the summer is a hobby that puts bears at significant risk." For more information, go to <http://archive.mailermailer.com/view/215808614r-ebe4e998%2a1230112b-0d880c21>



On Groundhog Day, “Punxsutawney Phil” saw a shadow— but it wasn’t his.

Photo and Caption submitted by Rob Marcotte.

Dad's Elsie

Doug Ross, Newington NH

My Dad, like many of his generation, was a “Jack of all trades”. His skills included electrician, plumber, welder, carpenter, volunteer fireman, gardener and mechanic; with hunting and fishing his favorite pastimes. Prior to WW II he worked for Tidewater Oil Company and assisted in the oil changes of the Hindenburg when it docked in Lakehurst, NJ. (As I recall, he said that each of the Zeppelin's four Daimler-Benz, 1,200 hp diesel engines, required a barrel of oil.) He was present for the May 6, 1937 disaster when the Hindenburg burned and crashed, and assisted in the rescue efforts. (Whenever the video of the catastrophic events of that day was televised, he would get excited, go to the TV screen and point out an indistinguishable guy in a white Veedol jump suit, holding a fire hose, and exclaim “That's me!”) During WW II he assembled military aircraft engines at Curtiss-Wright, Paterson, NJ.

Dad was also a “pack rat”, likely due to the fact that he was a young man during the Depression; unwilling to discard anything that may have value or a use someday, even if those possibilities were quite remote. Thus the contents of the basement in our northern New Jersey home were akin to a disorganized museum/flea market, containing a motley assortment of items, including broken pendulum clocks, Hindenburg photos, tools, tip-ups, and other stuff that reflected his various pursuits and acquisitions.

As an inquisitive kid in the 1950's, I was drawn to the basement and became fascinated with the partial remains of a rusted, double barrel shotgun that occupied a dark corner. Asking Dad about the rusted metal, he stared at the barrels and action, paused, then proceeded to tell me that this was his first shotgun which he had purchased used for \$19 in 1932; that it was an LC Smith, one of the finest shotguns ever

made. He added that the stock on the LC Smith was somewhat delicate, and he had broken the stock while rabbit hunting. Fortunately, as was his nature, he saved the barrels and action.

Fast forward now to the 1970's when my career afforded me the opportunity to meet Bob Storms, an excellent gunsmith whose shop, Garfield Gunsmithing, was behind the iconic Meltzer's Sporting Goods store in Garfield, NJ. (In 2016, Meltzer's closed after 101 years in the sporting goods business; Bob Storms has also since retired.) During one of my visits, Bob showed me what appeared to be a WW II German Luger in new condition. He then showed me a rusted WW II Luger in poor condition, stating that the first Luger was actually in worse shape before he restored it, and that he would also restore the rusted one to new condition. I immediately thought of Dad's LC Smith and asked Bob if he could restore an old shotgun. He told me to bring it in. I discretely re-located the remains of Dad's Elsie, still in the basement, and delivered them to Bob. Bob opened the action and inspected the bores, stating that the bores were in excellent shape and that he could do a restoration. He added that my Dad would likely pass the gun on to me, so he took my measurements for length of pull for the Fajen stock that he would be ordering and installing.

A few months later I picked up the restored Elsie, which, like the Luger, appeared to be in new condition. As Christmas was only a couple weeks away, I purchased a suitable gun case for this classic shotgun. I placed Dad's present under his Christmas tree in Durham, NH where he had retired. Upon unwrapping and opening the case, he stared, not saying anything. I finally broke the silence and asked “well, how do you like your present?” Not taking his eyes off the shotgun, he simply said in a soft voice “This is an LC Smith”. After a few more moments, he turned and asked “This isn't my LC Smith, is it?” I told him it was. He was at a loss for words as his smile transformed

to a grin; a moment and sight that I'll never forget.

A few months before Dad passed, he handed me the gun case, simply saying it was time for me to take Elsie.

I have since joined the LC Smith Collector's Association and have learned that Dad's Elsie, a Field Grade 16 gauge, was finished on October 28, 1914 and inspected by a Mr. M.W. Mack before it left the factory.

At least once a season, on a fair day, I take Elsie out. Should I drop a bird, I tell my hunting companion Mike Harrington of Rochester, and my Setter, or one of my Weims, that Dad, not me, made the shot. Should I miss, I tell them that Dad let me take the shot.

Should you be fortunate and inherit a shotgun, reconnect with your departed friend or family member; spend some time afield, carrying the shotgun they carried. They will surely be watching, and you too will be able to tell your dog, or hunting companion, who actually made that great shot.....



Gene Ross, lower left, assisting in the oil change, Zeppelin Hindenburg, Lakehurst, NJ



"Elsie"

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THANKS TO OUR LOCAL CHAPTER SPONSORS:



AND THANKS TO OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS:





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