



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

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YOUTH DAY ISSUE - 2016



Nine youngsters and parents slipped the bonds of their September schedules to participate in the second "Youth Day" put on by Merrimack Valley Chapter. Most of them came not knowing exactly what to expect, but eager to see if working with dogs, and bird hunting was something that they would like.

The weather cooperated in excellent fashion. Temperatures never rose above the mid-sixties and it was a bluebird day. Fortune smiled on this trepid band of young volunteers, and they didn't even flinch as A J DeRosa (who creates RGS's "Project Upland") moved around them with his video camera. (Look for some of that footage next spring!)

The group gathered around and received basic instruction from the current president of NAVHDA, David Trahan.

They were soon matched up with a dog and its owner for the day. The youth took the leashes and started out with “yard work”. Group activities for retrieving, heeling and



whoa were first on the agenda. It was interesting—and pleasing—to see that some of the youth had “the touch” when it came to handling the dogs. Their canine companions responded well.

A chapter member and his dog volunteered to demonstrate the process of seek point and retrieve, which gave the young people a clear idea of what to expect from “their” dogs.

Next the move was to “whoa boards”, “training tables”,



and other drills. Again, it was pleasing to see the youth control their inner feelings and “become one” with their canines. The Owners were close at hand—coaching, ad-

vising, and encouraging.

Before lunch, the group split between water work and shooting clay pigeons. Wet dogs and sounds of happiness rang at the waters’ edge.

At the “clay pigeon station”, the young people received expert instruction from long-time shooters—both as a group and individually. It was wonderful to see the natu-



ral ability of the youth. Some were consistent “target smashers”, others came along a little more slowly, but everyone had fun.

MVNAVHDA’s staff threw a barbeque for everyone—beef and turkey hamburgers, dogs, potato salad, chips, drink—the was plenty of food for young appetites. No one went away hungry.

After lunch, the chapter provided a demonstration of its different breeds, their breed origins, and a small “history” of the original need for a do-all dog that seeks, points, and retrieves. Following the group demonstration, each youth had the opportunity to go afield with “their” dog and his



owner. Parents were encouraged to “tag along”. Some youth chose not to shoot, but eagerly wanted to go with the dog while others brought the bird down for the dog.

One of the fun moments for the adults was watching the faces of the young ones during



the demonstration of how to dress a bird to ensure that the game was properly handled and prepared for the table.



Feeling that the day was well spent, the participants gathered for a final photo-op.

The youth and parents went home to talk and dream about dogs, shooting clay pigeons, and the new experiences they acquired. Grateful for the generous grant to NAVHDA to “seed” youth programs, the chapter members went home thinking that Youth Day may have been the most important event of the year.

Already there are ideas to make 2017’s event even better!.



TO THE POINT:

Here at the newsletter, we are being dragged—kicking and screaming—into the 21st Century.



We have placed several photos into the newsletter for the sake of “content” and for those folks who may not be on Facebook or Shutterfly.

To keep newsletter “volume” to a reasonable level, and *still* provide as many pictures as possible, we are moving the bulk of the pictures to Facebook and Shutterfly.

Please be aware that one will not “mirror” the other.

The use of these accounts will be determined by photographic “load” and member interest.

So, be sure to “LIKE” [MVNAVHDA](#) on our Facebook page so you can see the posts of other members as well as “other” items posted by the newsletter.

As we have said before, if you care to engage with Sutterfly, you have lots of options for photographs and products that are not available on Facebook.

For information about how to access MVNAVHDA on Shutterfly, please contact Cheryl Cyr. Cheryl’s email address is in the chapter directory which is located on our website mvnavhda.com.

Be safe and know the law where you are!

Den

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PS: Don’t forget to tell us about your adventures!



It’s late September. Good hunting everyone!





WANTED



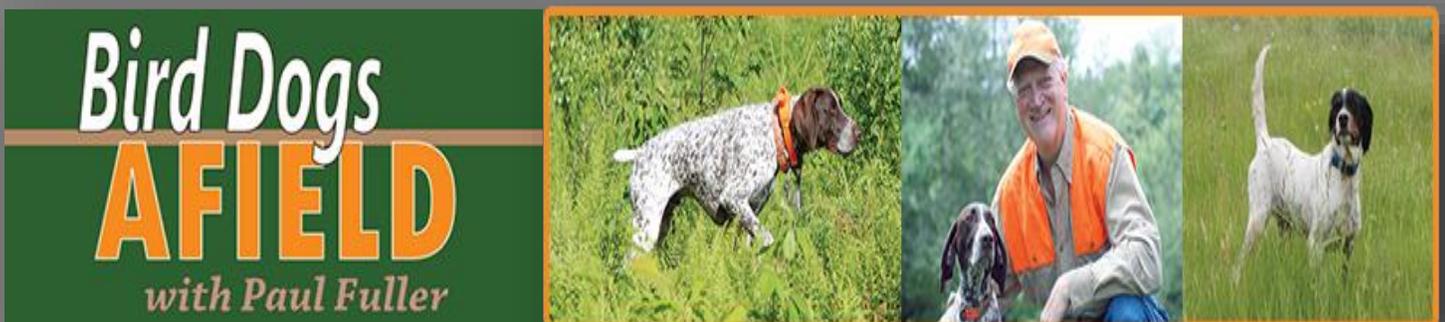
Please send in pictures, stories, training tips and hunting stories you would like to share.

Your contributions are *always* greatly appreciated.

Please direct your items to
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