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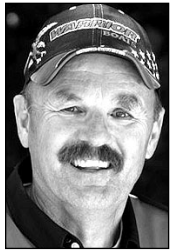
Tips For Effective Use Of Hunting Dogs

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

For over 25 years, I've hunted behind almost every breed of hunting dog you can imagine.

For me, the most rewarding part of the hunting experience isn't bagging the bird; it's watching a good hunting dog work in the field. After all these years of hunting behind a dog, it's tough for me to hunt with out one.

Raising and training hunting dogs requires a lot of patience and a tremendous amount of work if you're going to train them properly. My wife can't understand why I spent all the time and money on my hunting dog.



Gary Howey

It's one of those "man" things I guess. It brings me great pleasure, watching a dog that I've trained, doing what you always knew he could. When your dog works a bird and then either points or flushes it really adds to the hunting experience.

Choosing the right dog isn't as easy as it sounds. You'll need to look for a dog that fits your life style and your style of hunting.

The needs of an upland game bird hunter can be quite different from those of a waterfowl hunter.

Waterfowlers generally hunt in some pretty tough conditions and their dogs have to be heavily muscled dogs with a heavy coat. Labradors and Chesapeake Retrievers are the dogs that I find in most duck blinds.

The dogs that upland game bird hunters take to the field are usually slim, hard charging dogs.

Another factor that could enter into what breed of hunting dog you'll choose is your family.

Is your dog going to be used just for hunting or will he be both a hunter and a family pet are questions that you'll need to ask yourself before you buy a dog.



Watching a good dog work can make hunting more enjoyable. Pointing Labs (left) have become very popular giving hunters a dog that works the fields like a Pointer and still hits the water hard like a Lab.

When it comes to combination hunting and family dogs, size becomes a large consideration, especially if you have smaller children.

When my wife Cindy and I were first married and had small children, I hunted with a Brittany spaniel. The dog worked great for hunting Northeast Nebraska, because I hunted the only habitat we had at that time, fencerows and small shelter-belts.

She was small enough that the kids could play around her and not get bowled over when she got a little excited.

As the kids grew, I started to hunt in several different states and Northeast Nebraska's habitat changed dramatically, as did my preference for hunting.

I started doing more waterfowl hunting as well as hunting other upland game throughout the Midwest.

The Conservation Reserve Program

(CRP) changed much of the habitat in the central U.S. and my little Brittany had a tough time breaking through the heavy switch grass.

That's when I decided that my next dog would have to be a larger flushing breed; one that could handle the cold water when we duck hunted and pushes its way through or over heavy cover when we pheasant hunt.

I really liked pointing dogs, but wasn't sure that I wanted to trail behind some of those wide-ranging pointing breeds.

Because of the wide variety of game that I pursued and the heavy cover that I was now hunting, I decided to try a pointing Lab. For my type of hunting, it seemed to be the best of both worlds, a large dog that can be used for waterfowl as well as upland game and it worked close.

Another thing that a hunter needs to

learn when hunting with a dog is to "listen" to his dog. Watch him and learn how he reacts around birds, as they will give you a heads up when you're out hunting.

One of the first indicators that he's on a bird is the way he works his tail. A dog tail that's looking for birds will slowly wag back and forth, but once they hit a scent trail, the dogs will really get at it with their tail revolving in a tight circle.

A dog on hot scent won't be working back and forth in wide swoops; one on a bird will work back and forth in short quick spurts. Once this happens, you'd better close the gap between you and the dog because there's going to be a bird close by.

One of the biggest mistakes that new hunting dog owners make is to not follow their dog.

You'll have a more productive hunt if you follow the dog while he works his way back and forth across the field following. He's following his nose, which will lead the dog, and you to the bird if you just follow him.

Follow the dog; no matter how little cover he's working because nine out of ten times he's following a running bird.

Another mistake that many hunters and I have made is to make a lot of noise while you're working a field. Yelling at your dog when he gets ahead of you will send all but the dumbest of birds running out of the field.

Instead of yelling at the dog, try a short blast on a whistle to get his attention and then use hand signals to move the dog in the direction you'd like him to go.

These are a few tips on hunting dogs that I've learned through trial and a lot of error.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former hunting and fishing guide and the producer/host of the *Outdoorsmen Adventures* television series which can be seen on Fox and on www.MyOutdoorTV.com. For more information on the outdoors check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

OUTDOOR REPORT

More Than 500 Riders Take Part In Mickelson Trail Trek

LEAD — Despite cool temperatures, the 13th annual Mickelson Trail Trek was a success.

"The ride was a success, everyone had a great time and will have stories to tell about bicycling in some cold, wet weather. It was an adventure that will come up in bicycling stories for years," said Dana Garry, Mickelson Trail manager. "We were excited to have 512 riders, of which 15 were returning for their 13th year."

This year's event, held Sept. 17-19, brought people to the Black Hills from 24 states and Canada. Over the three days, trekkers rode past scenic Sheep Canyon, Crazy Horse Monument, across the Freedom Bridge south of Mystic, and into Lead/Deadwood on the final leg of the trail.

"The beautiful Black Hills scenery and fall colors help attract riders each year," said Garry.

Staff from the South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation, along with many volunteers, worked hard to pull this year's Trail Trek together, Garry said. She also wanted to especially acknowledge and thank the volunteers and town Chambers of Commerce that greeted the trekkers with water, snacks, ice cream and meals along the way.

The annual ride is held the third weekend of September, with the 2011 Trail Trek scheduled for Sept. 16-18. Online registration should be available in December, and Garry encourages riders to sign up as early as possible to ensure a spot in the ride. The trek is limited to 600 riders.

For more information on the Mickelson Trail, visit www.MickelsonTrail.com or contact the Black Hills Trails office at 605-584-3896.

Youth Bow Hunters A New Feature To Game & Parks Blogs

LINCOLN, Neb. — Youth bow hunters will chronicle their experiences in an added feature to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's lineup of online blogs.

These young hunters will blog about their activities as part of Game and Parks' Mentored Youth Archery Program (MYAP). It will be featured on the Lock, Stock and Bedlam blog (<http://lock-stockandbedlam.wordpress.com/>). MYAP connects recent graduates of the bow hunter education course with certified Game and Parks mentors and instructors for archery deer hunting.

All Game and Parks blogs may be found at OutdoorNebraska.org.

Trout Stocked In Minnechadua Creek

LINCOLN, Neb. — Some excellent fall trout fishing awaits Valentine anglers of all ages. The Valentine State Fish Hatchery stocked Minnechadua Creek with 600 catchable-size rainbow trout on Sept. 14, according to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Anglers should look for these 10-inch fish in stretches of the Minnechadua in the Valentine City Park and near the Valentine State Fish Hatchery.

Minnechadua Creek is not cold enough to support trout year-round, but it is stocked each spring and fall.

A basic fishing rod and reel, some hooks, worms or maybe small spinners, are all that is needed for a few hours of trout fishing.



Over 60 youth from the Yankton area took part in the second annual "Step Outside Event," which was held Aug. 28 at the Izaak Walton Group range east of Yankton on Highway 50.

2nd Annual Step Outside Event A Success

BY SAM SCHELHAAS
S.D. Game, Fish & Parks

On Saturday, Aug. 28, over 60 youth from the Yankton area participated in a free outdoors experience — the "Step Outside Event" — that was hosted by the Izaak Walton Group at the trap range east of Yankton.

The event was organized and run by members from Pheasants Forever, the Izaak Walton League of America, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, BASS, National Wild Turkey Federation, South Dakota Game

Fish and Parks, US Fish and Wildlife Service, South Dakota Highway Patrol and the Yankton Police Department.

All youth attending the event were given the opportunity to participate in and/or learn about 6 outdoor activities: trapping, goose hunting, fishing, trap shooting, BB Gun shooting and archery.

A light meal was provided prior to the event and all those attending received a hat to commemorate the event.

A special thanks to Hy-Vee and Hostess for providing the meal, snacks and drinks and Dakota Archery for donating arrows.

Wildlife Violators Pay More Than \$14K In Fines For 'Party Hunting'

PIERRE — A routine stop by a South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks conservation officer has resulted in hefty fines for several people found guilty of wildlife crimes.

Game, Fish and Parks Conservation Officer Josh Carr was working in western Stanley County on Oct. 18, 2009, when he came across a group of pheasant hunters. While doing a routine license check, he determined that the hunters were returning from antelope hunting in western South Dakota. Carr discovered numerous violations of wildlife laws, and initiated an investigation.

Over the course of the next several months, GFP officers worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on multiple investigations, including several interviews with members of the hunting party.

The hunters were involved in "party hunting," lending hunting licenses, harvesting antelope without licenses, violating the Federal Lacey Act, illegal possession of game, and other wildlife crimes on public land or Walk-In areas in Butte and Harding counties.

The investigations led to prosecutions for those wildlife crimes, and the following people ultimately were found guilty of various violations:

- Randy Malterud, 44, of Watertown, S.D. Fraud to obtain a big game license, unlawful possession of big game and failure to tag big game.

Fines and court costs of \$852, one-year loss of hunting privileges

- Glynn Grantham, 35, of Houston Texas. Misdemeanor violation of the Lacey Act, \$525 fine, \$8,000 in restitution

- Wesley Grantham, 42, of Hayti, S.D. Five counts of unlawful possession of big game, \$500 fine and court costs, 30 days in jail, 30 days suspended, one-year of loss of hunting privileges

- Brian Willard, 42, of West Des Moines, Iowa. Misdemeanor violation of the Lacey Act, \$525 fine, \$3,000 in restitution and forfeit antelope meat

- Kenneth Willard, 68, of Wray, Colo. Misdemeanor violation of the Lacey Act, \$525 fine and forfeit antelope meat

- Michael Schwartz, 39, of Watertown, S.D. Transportation of big game without head or hide, \$127 fine and court costs

- Jonathan Fox, 29 of Cypress, Texas. Improper tagging of game, \$135 fine and court costs

- Chad Olson, 38, of Watertown, S.D. Lending a big game tag, \$300 fine and court costs, five days jail, five days suspended, one-year loss of hunting privileges

Prosecutions were handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Stanley County State's Attorney Office, Harding County State's Attorney Office, and Codington County State's Attorney Office.

Special Kansas Hunt Creates Opportunity For Youth, People With Disabilities

BY BRENT FRAZEE
(c) 2010, The Kansas City Star

MANHATTAN, Kan. — After all Lou Schuknecht has been through in the past few years, maybe he was due for a day like Saturday.

Schuknecht's health has degenerated to the point where he can hardly walk — the result of problems with his heart, knees and back. But there he was Saturday, hunting deer again.

And shooting one of the biggest bucks in the woods.

Just a couple of hours after he used his cane to hobble into a camouflaged blind during a special hunt at Tuttle Creek Lake, he was posing for pictures with the 10-point buck he shot.

"I had visions of doing all kinds of things when I retired," said Schuknecht, 72, of Hoyt, Kan. "But my health wouldn't let me.

"My body is shot. There's no way I could ever go deer hunting on my own.

"But an event like this, it gives me that chance to get out again. This is the first buck I've ever taken.

"And to do it when I'm in the shape I'm in, well, it feels real good."

It was that kind of day at Tuttle Creek Lake, where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the Riley County Fish and Game Association put on a special hunt.

The event, which coincided with the first day of the Kansas deer season for youth and hunters with disabilities, has taken place for eight years now.

But the Sept. 11 hunt may have been the crowning moment for the longstanding program.

Not long after 27 youth and hunters with disabilities joined their volunteer guides and scattered to hunting stations in the Manhattan area, they began finding success.

By midmorning, nine hunters had shot deer — a record day for the hunt.

No one was more excited than Schuknecht. He still remembers last year's hunt, when he sat for hours and failed to even see a deer, let alone shoot one.

But this year's hunt was different. Sitting with volunteer guide Wade Greif, he watched as a big buck walked out a thicket and into a clearing. Schuknecht waited for the right moment, then squeezed the trigger. And he had his deer of a lifetime.

"I started hunting deer about 10 years ago," he said. "But with my health as bad as it is, I haven't been able to get out that much."

"A program like this is fantastic. It gives me a chance to do something I wouldn't be able to do otherwise."

Harold Arnett, 68, of St. George, Kan., echoed that thought.

He too has endured plenty of hardship. He has suffered three heart attacks and two strokes. And before that, he was a POW in the Vietnam War and wondered if he'd even survive.

But Saturday, all of that was forgotten. With his guide, Tony Rock, at his side, he watched as a doe came out of the end of a corn field and into a clearing.

When a shot rang out, the deer went down. And Arnett had the venison he was craving.

"I like eating this venison," Arnett said. "It's especially good as chili meat."

The younger members of the hunt also enjoyed memorable days.

Deer hunting for the first time, Ashton Kahle, 14, of Wamego, Kan., took a small buck. Not long after, he was using his cell phone to text friends and send them pictures of the deer.

"On my first deer hunt, we were out three days and I didn't take my deer until the last evening," said Ashton's father, Brian Kahle. "He goes out, sits a couple of hours and gets one."

Ashton smiled and said, "Yeah, I'm already tied with my dad for the number of deer we've shot."

Dad laughed and explained.

"I'm new to this myself," he said. "I've only been deer hunting for two years."

"That's why programs like this are great. It gives kids like Ashton a chance to learn from experienced hunters."

The process begins when young hunters up to age 16 and hunters with disabilities fill out applications. The field is then pared down to about 30, and volunteer guides and landowners are recruited.

Wooden blinds are built for some fields, pop-up blinds are put out in others. Then the hunters and their guides are off to the woods for a two-day hunt.

"It's all about opportunity," said Steve Prockish of the Corps of Engineers, one of the organizers of the hunt. "A lot of these kids have never hunted deer before."

"When they get out there, they don't know what to expect. But once they take their first deer, you can tell that it means a lot to them."

"They get excited, and we do too."

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