



APPALACHIAN HIGHLANDS CHAPTER
November 2, 2009
NEWSLETTER



We have a winner!!!! Marvin Briscoe (at left) was the lucky winner of the Browning BPS 12 gauge shotgun that we offered as the prize in our recent fund raising event. The drawing was held on September 20, 2009 at the 2nd Annual Hunting and Fishing Expo at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Virginia. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets and those chapter members who sold tickets. The event was a big success! The proceeds will be used to support wildlife habitat initiatives in N.E. Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.



Our Chapter sponsored a booth at the Expo again this year. National Headquarters provided a RGS display and plenty of RGS informational literature to hand out during this two day event. Our thanks go out to the dedicated chapter members who helped out during this event and to National for their support of our effort. Pictured at the left is chapter member Lawrence Jervis and Cinnamon, a Ryman Setter owned by Mike Giles. Pictured at the left is chapter member Lawrence Jervis and Cinnamon at the RGS booth. Brian Dougherty, Lawrence and Mike could

not compete with Cinnamon, she was clearly the favorite with the crowd, especially the kids. Many chapter members stopped by and hung out for a while. There was plenty of discussion on bird dogs and grouse hunting. We also enlisted several new members during the event. A meeting of the Virginia Quail Council was held on October 8th in Appomattox, VA. Dr. Dean Stauffer, a wildlife biology professor at VPI made a presentation on plans for research of the feasibility of quail restoration on surface mined land in south west Virginia. The study will focus on the viability of trap and transfer of Northern Bobwhite Quail. There are over 60 species of birds that use surface mined land. The study will use the Northern Bobwhite as the "flagship species" of a much wider study of early successional habitat for other species. The proposal calls for capture of at least 60 quail using baited funnel traps. The quail would be fitted with radio collars and released in at least 3 different locations in groups of 10 or more. The birds would be monitored at least 3 times/week to determine home range, nesting sites and mortality.

This study would have a five year duration. At least 3 years of capture/release data is necessary to truly evaluate the viability of trap and transfer wild quail. The annual cost of this project is estimated at \$140,000 annually for a five year minimum or \$600,000 total for the project.

There are numerous challenges for this study. First and foremost is securing adequate funding. Everyone is working on tight budgets in this economic downturn and wildlife habitat may not be a top priority. Another challenge is locating a source of wild birds. There are not that many areas with ample quail populations where birds could be trapped. Other considerations are securing suitable release sites and obtaining cooperation of the mining industry.



Last Word " *Whoever said you can't buy happiness forgot little puppies.*"
- Gene Hill

News from the grouse woods...

Mike Giles / Tom Hayes... Wisconsin

North woods of Wisconsin report for Oct 24-31 from Mike Giles. My buddy, Tom Hayes and I arrived in Phillips on Sat morning Oct. 24th to 8" of snow. We hunted in the snow the first two days and things were sort of slow. By Monday, most of the snow had melted and the dogs began to find woodcock. The grouse were tough, mostly older cagey birds that had been pressured. My trip highlight was seeing the light click on for my 10 month pup, Cinnamon. She tracked down a grouse with a clipped wing. And, I was lucky enough to bag the first woodcock she pointed. My pup is interested in birds!!!! Although, I do not have children, I liken this to the relief of a father when he realizes his son is interested in girls.

I saw two of our chapter members pictured on the "Wall of Fame" at the Crystal Diner in Phillips: Chip Young and Paul Jackson who hunted around Phillips earlier in October. Sorry I don't have any photos of our hunt. I'm usually too involved with the action to take pix.

Spencer Young... Maine

In short, we had a blast! Many woodcock flushes (lost count) and again the greatest game bird lived up to its reputation. A few were taken over the three days we spent in Jackman but flushes were more common than harvests. I've attached a few pictures that will vividly illustrate the beauty that Maine has to offer hunters and travelers alike.



Gary Mac Quillen/Eric Warren... Michigan

Eric Warren and I spent a week in the upper part of the lower peninsula of Michigan the first full week of October. We had less than good weather in that it rained for three of the six days we hunted. Of the three days of dry weather we had two good days. The best day we had 23 grouse flushes and 13 on woodies. The dogs out performed us and we were proud of their efforts. Mike Elliott's dog "Joe" is really coming into his own. Eric and I were fortunate to get to hunt over him and see a young dog do so well. Mike couldn't make the trip this year but hopefully will next year. We thank him for Joe's contribution to this hunt. I would not necessarily suggest hunting the Pigeon River State Forest for grouse because of the lack of cover. It is managed primarily for elk and not grouse. You can find grouse and woodcock but there are better areas that have more cover managed for upland birds.

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Gary Mac Quillen/Eric Warren... Michigan



Eric hopes to have a promising litter of LLeuellin Setter puppies in mid-December if anyone is interested. Pictured is Boone, the sire. Contact Eric Warren (423)292-6796. God bless America and good hunting to all.

Gary Mac Quillen

Tips for the hunt...

Ever found yourself on the steep side of one of our East TN, Southwest VA ridges gasping for air and your legs aching, wishing you'd done more to get fit for the grouse woods? Well, so have I. A little exercise during the off-season would sure go a long way to make a hunt more enjoyable. Remember, the same applies for our dogs. We can't expect them to hit the woods and have a top-notch performance if they're as out of shape. Also, inspect your equipment to make sure it's in top shape before your hunt, especially your shotguns. For y'all that hunt with 20's or 12's, make sure you don't have mixture of 12 and 20 gauge ammo in your vest or coat. I saw a 32 gauge shotgun once and it wasn't a pretty sight. A 32 gauge is a 12 gauge that was fired with a 20 gauge shell in the barrel (20+12=32). The shooter was very fortunate to be alive! Get yourself and your dogs in shape! Take care of your equipment! Watch where you're shootin' and enjoy every minute that you spend in the woods!

Thankfulness...

One of the simplest pleasures and most pleasing experiences anyone can have is stopping at the top of a ridge to rest and looking out over creation and being thankful to our Creator for his provisions! Psalm 19:1 – *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

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