

Spoon River Chapter 2010 Test Dates

Spring Test
May 21-23, 2010

Fall Test
September 24-26, 2010

Gobbler's Knob Hunting
Preserve



Chapter Officers

Terry Postin-President
309-649-0112

John Sondag-Vice
President

Fall Test Results

The Spoon River Chapter's fall 2009 test was a strong success. 9 Natural Ability dogs and 4 Utility dogs were tested over the 3 days.

Results:

Natural Ability

1. De Jac's Tough All Over- WPG, Handled By: Fred Hansen Score: 86pts. Prize 3

2. Eagle Lake's Alexa- LM Handled By: Dave Peterson Score: 101pts. Prize 2

3. No-Mars Spirit Hawk Vom Hauss- GSP Handled By: Randy Milton Score: 112pts. Prize 1

4. De Jac's T.L.C.- WPG Handled By: Al Dillow Score: 97pts. Prize 2

5. Smoke Creeks Mason Ditched Bridger- GW Handled By: Clint Joesting Score: 96pts. Prize 3

6. Wind River's Four-Leaf Clover- GSP Handled By: Robert King Score: 102pts. Prize 2

7. Killbuck's Pursuit- PP Handled By: D. William Vanderlaan Score: 90pts. Prize: 3

8. Griffwood Coeur de Lionne- WPG Handled By: Terry Postin Score: 86pts. Prize: 3
9. Putt Creek Dexter Bleu Benson- WPG Handled By: Mark Benson Score: 96pts. Evaluation Only

Utility

1. Cleo V.D. Eichenhugel- GW Handled By: Robert Jager Score: 142pts. Prize: 0

2. Top Shelf's Chapa Spooner- GWP Handled By: Barry Pearson Score: 189pts. Prize: 2

3. Cattail's Palmer- GWP Handled By: Randy Ashman Score: 185pts. Prize: 2

A special thanks to John Sondag filling in as test secretary for this test. Also, thanks to everyone who helped to make the test a success-bird planters, gunners, runners, cooks, judges, field marshals and handlers who tested. Finally, thanks to Don at Gobbler's Knob for allowing us to use his grounds.

According to Doug Gustafson, we came out \$100 ahead after all the bills were paid.

You can view over 100 photos taken by Chapter members by visiting our Chapter website [HERE](#).

Upland Bird Season Just Days Away

This Saturday, November 7th, is Opening Day! Illinois pheasant, quail, and Hungarian partridge seasons open at sunrise. Hopefully, all of you will be able to go afield with your dog. Of course, there is always Gobbler's Knob to schedule your preserve hunt; as well as several other preserves throughout the state. A listing of licensed hunting preserves in Illinois can be found at the Department

of Natural Resources website by following [THIS LINK](#).

To read the Pheasants Forever 2009 pheasant forecast, visit their website, [HERE](#).

One little reminder as you head out this year-Illinois is going through the latest and slowest harvest in a generation. Farmers are working a lot of long hours and moving equipment

between fields on the roads trying to get the harvest completed before the weather causes any more headaches. Be aware of what's on the road.

Good luck and have a safe and successful season. And don't forget to share your pictures and stories with the rest of the Chapter.

-Adam Jaquet

Sharing Our Sport



Our morning came to an early start as Shae, Clint and I had to load our dogs gear and other unneeded stuff into our trucks around 3:30 AM, so we could be on the road by 4:30. We had to be at the Clinton Lake headquarters by 6:00. We received some brief instructions on how most of the kids, ages 10-15 had never been hunting before. Then we were assigned fields and shown how to get there. We all rounded up birds and planted them in the fields; four roosters per kid. When we arrived back at the meeting room, we were greeted by the children. We were each assigned a hunting party and off to the fields we went. My 2 boys had never hunted before. So we discussed what the dog would do, and what was expected of them when the dog went on point. The winds were strong that day, and many of our birds chose to run instead of get up and

flush. The boys learned quickly that they needed to get right in when Sophie went on point. Our first bird went up and flushed right out over Clinton Lake, "BOOM" went the gun. "SPLASH" went the bird as it went down hitting water. "We should have went with a Labrador guide" I heard, as we watched the bird struggling out in the water. I then released the dog and gave 'fetch' command. As I explained to the group that these are versatile breeds, they watched in awe as Sophie finished the water retrieve to hand. "AWESOME" I then heard. Our next 2 birds were both hit lightly. One with just a broken leg fluttered for some long distance. They thought for sure that this bird would never be recovered. I even wondered!? We sent the dog on a fetch command. While she worked the track, we discussed the abilities of our dogs to track and find

wounded game. Just before I finished my verbal presentation, Sophie appeared with bird in mouth, and delivered it to the young shooter. "Unbelievable" he exclaimed as he received his prize. Unfortunately, as hard as we worked, we couldn't seem to get the guns to work fast enough to get our last bird. But the boys, having never hunted before, did great! They had fun. My dog got a lot of bird work. I enjoyed my day. Ill share memories with those boys and their dads of their first pheasant hunt. What more could you ask for than to share our sport like this? Except maybe to share it with my own son. And next year I will. Perhaps you could give back to the sport that has given so much to you, and come volunteer to share some memories with my son and me. Maybe you can even show your dogs talents off too!

-John Sondag

SpoonRiverNAVHDA.com Connects Us to the World

Our redesigned and interactive Chapter website is up and running at www.spoonrivernavhda.com.

John and Tara Sondag put in lots of work to update our site and add more features, and the results speak for themselves. As of November 5 at 10:00pm, we have had 7,700 visits to this site

since it became active at the beginning of August. The site has already yielded several new or prospective members.

But it is also loaded with features for current Chapter members. The photo gallery is a great place to show off your most recent hunting success, or your new pup pointing their first bird. Click over to the video gallery and upload footage

of a training session. Do you need to check our by-laws? They are there, too. Want to check the calendar for our test dates-it's there. Got a training question? The forums are a great solution. Just post the question. All you need to do to get started is register on the site. And if you have already registered but haven't checked in for a while, you're missing out.

