

# Golden Tales

DECEMBER 2021



MID-FLORIDA GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB

*Holiday Issue!*

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Photo by John J Carelli

Leslie Anderson's "Quince"

From Ginger Rezy, Happy National Attendee  
November 18 at 7:58 PM ·

I just wanted to post a huge THANK YOU to everyone who organized and volunteered at the **2021 GRCA National Specialty**. What an amazing National! It may have been a couple weeks ago now, but I still keep thinking about how wonderful it all came together. ❤️ Kudos to all who made it happen!



Cover greetings!

Holiday wishes from MFGRC member Paula Black's Rip, Eli, Tat and Lulu



## President's Message . . .

It is hard to believe that 2021 is almost over and that the “National” is just a fond memory. Fond, you say? How about SPECTACULAR! One of the best nationals EVER!!! Give yourselves a well deserved pat on the back everyone! Almost four years of hard planning certainly paid off.

The Christmas party (December 18<sup>th</sup>) is back on track and will be held at my house again. Ya’ll come!! Yummy food is guaranteed along with a good time. In March, our yearly Match will be back on the schedule. It will also be at my house (or should I say my pasture). Don’t miss this fun event!

After three years of being your president, I will soon be passing the baton to Robin Burket. I will not be stepping all the way down – I will still be on the board. There will be new faces on the board also. We are all looking forward to a year without as much stress and frantic deadlines.

As I look towards the new year, it is important to say “thank you” and say it often. I am in awe of what we have accomplished these past months. We have made an incredible footprint showing what real teamwork can do. I trust as a club we will continue to reinforce that footprint in the future ... and once again, thank you. It has been my pleasure to serve as president.

*Ann Rowe*



# VOLUNTEERING . . .

## *Opportunities to Volunteer are Upcoming*

### **Spring Hunt Test**

The MFGRC will hold its annual Spring Hunt Test Feb. 11-12-13 in Montverde, Fla., and numerous volunteers will be needed to help run the trial and to help set up and pack up. Positions include helping move and set up equipment, working with birds, marshalling, helping prepare meals, etc. To volunteer as a marshall, please contact marshall chair Kristin Sipus at [richwoodgoldens@gmail.com](mailto:richwoodgoldens@gmail.com). Anyone interested in other volunteer positions can contact volunteer coordinator Michele Throm at [michelethrom@yahoo.com](mailto:michelethrom@yahoo.com).

### **Spring Agility Trial**

The club will be holding a three-day agility trial April 22-23-24 at Grand Oaks Resort in Weirsdale, Fla. (near The Villages) and volunteers are going to be needed to help conduct the trial. Help will be needed on setup day (Thursday, April 21, at 1 p.m.), during all three days of competition and help will be needed for packing up the club's equipment on Sunday afternoon when the trial is finished. Anyone who can help is asked to contact volunteer coordinator Pat Carlile at [pat\\_golden\\_boy@yahoo.com](mailto:pat_golden_boy@yahoo.com)

# Time to Renew MFGRC Memberships . . .

It's time for Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club members to renew their memberships. Because of the pandemic, no one had to renew for 2021, but the club is resuming its normal renewal process for 2022.

Membership fees for 2022 are \$35 for individual, family or associate memberships and can be paid through the mail or online.

Online renewal can be done at this link:

<https://mfgrc.square.site/product/membership/247?cs=true&cst=custom>

**Returning members please note that the new deadline for renewing your membership is January 30, 2022. If the renewal has not been done by then, the person will have to re-apply for membership.**

People who become club members in October, November and December do not have to renew for 2022; their membership will carry over.

If renewing by mail, members should indicate their category, make a check payable to MFGRC and mail to:

Robin Burket  
MFGRC Membership Chair  
1113 Juniper Hammock Ct.  
Winter Garden, FL 34787

## Nominations for 2022 MFGRC Officers and Board . . .

In accordance with the by-laws of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club, the Nominating Committee has nominated the following club members to be officers and board members in 2022:

### Officers:

President – Robin Burket  
Vice President – Christine McDaniel  
Secretary - Andy Hall  
Treasurer – Robin Bowen

### Board:

Kathy Cudak	Pam Ginn
Ted Misilo	Camille Nasca
Jan Paddock	Ann Rowe
Michele Throm	

At the club's November 20 general meeting in Ocala, per the by-laws, members were presented the opportunity to make additional nominations but none were made. Voting for these positions will be held at the club's Annual Meeting at the Christmas Party on December 18.

In addition to the above, club member Pat Carlile will continue to assist the 2022 officers and board in the non-voting position of assistant secretary.

## Mark Your Calendars

**MFGRC Spring Hunt Test** – February 11-12-13 –  
Montverde, FL

**MFGRC Fun Match and General Meeting** –  
March 19 – Sorrento, FL

**MFGRC Spring Agility Trial** –  
April 22-23-24 – Weirsdale, FL

**MFGRC Summer Specialty** – June 17 – Tampa, FL

**MFGRC Obedience/Rally Trial** – August 12-13-14  
– Daytona Beach, FL

(general meetings to be announced)

## MFGRC

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club, Inc. (MFGRC) was founded in

1984 by a group of Golden

Retriever enthusiasts who came

together in order to pursue ways of

promoting and enjoying their

Goldens. We are currently a member

club of both the Golden Retriever

Club of America (GRCA) and the

American Kennel Club (AKC).

MFGRC is licensed by the AKC to hold conformation shows, obedience and rally trials, agility trials, and retriever hunting tests. We also hold Working Certificate / Working Certificate Excellent tests in accordance with the rules of the GRCA, and also offer a breed/obedience match every year.

In addition, MFGRC offers an ongoing slate of seminars, clinics and "fun days" to encompass all aspects of the Golden Retriever. We promote the versatile competition golden, the gentleman's hunting retriever, and the consummate family pet.

# Deadline Nearing to Order 2021 New Title Rosettes

Members of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club who earn new titles for their Golden Retrievers during calendar year 2021 may be eligible to receive a new title rosette from the club. The deadline for ordering is December 31, 2021.

In order to be eligible to receive a new title rosette from the club, a member must have volunteered to work for at least one club event during the year, or have done equivalent work for the club behind-the-scenes (subject to verification). The stipulation is in place to encourage members to help with club events.

If a member's dog has won a new title in 2021 and the member feels he or she is eligible to receive a rosette, the member should email the full name of the dog, including all titles, and indicate which titles were earned in 2021, and what event(s) were worked at to MFGRC board member Pam Ginn. The rosettes will be ordered in early January and made available for pickup early next year. Pam's email address is [Info@kestrelfarmgoldens.com](mailto:Info@kestrelfarmgoldens.com).

If a member will not be able to attend an event next year to pick up the rosette, it is asked that the member send a check for \$10 for postage and handling, made out to MFGRC, so that it can be mailed to you. The address to send the check to is 9680 NW 80th Ave., Ocala, FL 34482.



## Welcome New Members

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club welcomed two new members during its general meeting held at the end of September.

Voted in as members were Patricia and Alphonse Albano of Palm Coast, Fla. Their sponsors were Laura Bellochi and Mustapha and Carlotta El Khorchi.

It's Back!  
MFGRC "Fun Match"  
Returning in March



A longstanding tradition of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club is returning in 2022 after an absence of two years. The club's annual "Fun Match," an AKC-sanctioned "B" Match, will return on Saturday, March 19, at the home of club president Ann Rowe in Sorrento, Fla.

The Fun Match includes all-breed Rally and Obedience as well as Goldens-only Conformation in three rings on Ann's property. Judging will begin at 9 a.m.

A general meeting for club members will be held following the match. Members should bring their own chairs as well as a dog or human item for a raffle that will be held following competition. Lunch will be available for \$5.

The address is 23840 Oak Valley Lane, Sorrento, FL, 32776. The entry premium will be available soon. Same-day entries are permitted and entries are open to all.

The Fun Match was last held in 2019 and had to be canceled in 2020 and 2021.

## MFGRC MEMBER BECOMES NEW OBEDIENCE JUDGE

Longtime Obedience and Rally competitor Sally Sherman (right) made her debut as an AKC Obedience Judge in the Ocala shows held in November.

Still very active as a competitor, Sally has been going through the judge confirmation process since 2019 and was made a provisional judge for Novice classes in August.

The day after her second day of judging, Sally returned to Ocala as a competitor and she and her Golden girl Boom won High in Trial both days and High Combined the second day.



# **2021 Golden Retriever Club of America National Specialty**

Hosted by Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club  
October 22 – 30, 2021

*Mission Accomplished!*

After four years of preparation, including a one-year delay due to the pandemic, the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club hosted the 2021 Golden Retriever Club of America National Specialty in Ocala, Fla., Oct. 22-30.

Thousands of Golden Retrievers and their people attended the event which included competitions, raffles, shopping, clinics, seminars, meetings and social events.

The majority of events were held at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala. Field events were held at Lazy J Ranch in nearby Williston, Fla., and Tracking was held at Grand Oaks Resort in Weirsdale, Fla.

MRGRC member Pat Kopco was chair of the event.



MFGRC member Pat Kopco (left) led the committee that planned and staged the 2021 GRCA National Specialty. On behalf of the committee and the MFGRC, club president Ann Rowe presented Pat with a piece of artwork commemorating one of her beloved Goldens as well as a gift card.



*Thanks to All - From GRCA National Specialty Chair Pat Kopco*

I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all you did to make this National happen. As much as I don't like clichés, it really did take a village.

I want to start with the members of the National Committee. Not only did most of them spend the last few years working on this, but some of them spent most of the National manning their posts, and I love you for that. Many of them literally spent most of the day, every day, stuck at their posts, with little or no time to enjoy the National. I am so grateful to you all.

Of course, thanks to Tom Misilo for the amazing website and its upkeep and management for years, and to Andy Hall for handling the FB page and all social media for those same years, while both held down full time jobs. Also thanks to Laura Topping for being the "answer person" on social media during this time. Dot Hively put in overtime for months to create and manage a phenomenal premium and two catalogs and to prepare BaRay for future GRCA Nationals. Dot and Allison also managed the Tiki Hut welcome center all day every day. I'm in awe of all of you.

The field folks, Mike Orloff, Marilyn Booher, Ted Misilo and Tom Misilo, along with chairs Kristin Sipus, Bob Swift, Patty McCabe and Rob Bedford were fabulous. Every event went smoothly and safely. My eternal gratitude to you all.

Dee Thibodeaux planned and ran the agility event even after having major emergency surgery. The fact that she actually came to this National after all she'd been through is nothing short of a miracle. She is my hero, as is her husband John. My thanks for your dedication to the event and to John for handling the trailers. Special thanks to Robin Scott and Pat Carlile who stepped in to help Dee with the MFGRC agility trial and the National and for many others who helped with the tremendous task of moving, setting up and breaking down agility equipment..

Andy Hall put on a great obedience/rally trial, Barbara Pepper ran conformation like a well oiled machine and Betty Lambert and Debbie Finch pulled off a terrific tracking test. Huge thanks also to Tom Misilo for taking over the money matters and paying the bills, you took such a load off my shoulders.

Robin Bowen created the most successful raffle in the history of the National (special thanks to Johann Goines for the spin to win idea) and had a flawless CCA, and was amazing at hotel operations, which turned out to be the biggest nightmare of the whole event. Also thanks to Collette Jaynes for creating the ad catalog book and for her contributions to the raffle which included the successful VIP Chair raffle and raffles for the inside front and back cover ads.

*(Continued on next page)*

## From GRCA National Specialty Chair Pat Kopco . . .

The vendors were great thanks to Tom Hell who went over and above setting up all the arenas with WEC and we used his vision to create a phenomenal layout in the buildings. Anthony Napoli was all over the place handling RVs, grounds and security with ease, and I am so thankful he convinced me to hire the security guys he procured. They were a Godsend and just a great group of guys.

Michele Panetta was at her post in the grooming barns all day every day and controlled over 200 rowdy grooming renters with no drama, as well as overseeing the distribution of hundreds of volunteer jackets and the making of hilarious and beautiful table centerpieces. Michele Throm ordered and sold a boatload of great merchandise both in 2020 and 2021, and is still selling horse shirts which Susie Rezy created. They were the hit of the show. Camille Nasca's placement prizes and trophies were spectacular and magnificent and were displayed beautifully as were the stunning rosettes Chris Jeffrey picked, and both awards got many compliments and provided the AKC.TV video with a great background.

Ann Rowe and Jenny Ford outdid themselves with dinners and hospitality every day for all the events including the field events. They were crucial to the National's success. Thanks to Ann for the glassware, the hundreds of cups of coffee, the field lunches and the BOB cakes, and thanks to Jenny for all the contract negotiations, the workers and judges lunches and the outrageous Halloween party.

Valentina Salazar's decorations were a HUGE hit - I see them all over FB and I smile. Dot and Alison's Parade of Titleholders was magical (thank you Valentina for the video) and ridiculously well time-managed, and their

tiki hut booth check-in was the focal point of the show (thank you Robin Bowen for building it). Laura Topping had all the answers and got the greatest bagpipe band ever and Caroline Kendrick pitched in everywhere. Everybody, and I mean everybody excelled.

We had lots of MFGRC club members pitch in as volunteers and every contribution was greatly appreciated - we needed your help and you came through.

Finally, thank you so much to the board and the club for your over the top gift to me. I couldn't have asked for a gift I would love and treasure more than a memory of Axl, who couldn't be with us for this event, in a piece of art that fits perfectly in our home. I cannot tell you how much I love that piece. The added portion was unnecessary, but ever so much appreciated.

We got tons of kudos and tons of compliments on an unbelievable show, and we deserved every one of those compliments. We put on a show that will never be matched, and each and every one of you should be proud to have been a part of it. I know I am. We did good.

Thanks again, I could never have done this without all of you.

Sincerely,

*Pat Kopco*

2021 GRCA National Specialty Chair



# GRCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY HIGHLIGHTS AND SNAPSHOTS . . .



Sunrise at Lazy J Ranch before the Hunt Test



Hunt test action



Field welcome dinner



(L-R) Robin Senderowitz, MFGRC president Ann Rowe and Camille Nasca with some of the trophies given out during the National.



MFGRC member Janice Smith's Golden poses in front of one of the many photo op areas at the National



Fun photo from one of the photo op areas



Spectators could watch conformation judging on big screens

# GRCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY HIGHLIGHTS AND SNAPSHOTS . . .



Arrivals to the National were greeted at the Tiki Hut information booth by Allison Hively.



Raffle Chair Robin Bowen oversaw one of the largest and most successful raffles in the history of the GRCA National.



MFGRC members (L-R) Robin Bowen, Camille Nasca, Paula Black, Courtney Roxby and Sally Elliott move merchandise for the Raffle from storage to the WEC.



Two MFGRC members swept the two top awards in the Rally competition during the GRCA National. Ellen Bartkus (left) and Lara took the High Triple Qualifying Award and Karyn Angel and Cody (right) took High Combined. They are with judge Deb Neufeld.



CCA in progress



Bagpipers escort Best of Breed Judge



Best of breed judging



Julie Wangelin and her Golden boy Ditto won Best Owner Handler in Best of Breed, one of the final awards presented at the National

# GRCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY HIGHLIGHTS AND SNAPSHOTS . . .



Wonder Women and their Wonder Goldens – Allison (left) and Dot Hively at the Howl-O-Ween party



Jenny Ford and her Goldens dressed as Minions for the Howl-O-Ween party



MFGR board member Michele Throm and her three Golden girls were in their Game of Thrones attire for the Howl-O-Ween party



Photo op area



Nancy Sigmon and her champion Golden boy Jackson on stage at the Parade of Titleholders



Flamingos brought a Florida feel to the breed ring



2021 specialty merchandise area



MFGR members Betty Lambert (left) and Kelly and Richard Knowlen serve a congratulatory cake ringside on the final day of the National

THANK YOU . . .

*From Dee Thibodeaux, MFGRC Agility Chair  
... with sincere gratitude*



Everyone,

We pulled off a very successful five days of agility competition in October – three days at Grand Oaks for the MFGRC and two days at the World Equestrian Center with the GRCA National.

There were so many people who helped with agility – at Grand Oaks and at the National – that I cannot possibly thank them all. But I do want to single out a few.

Almost four years of planning went into the National – and just as we were about to kick everything off, I had to have emergency surgery, and my ability to carry out the duties of agility chair was in serious doubt.

Robin Scott was a lifesaver. She stepped up to help me with the agility trial at Grand Oaks when I needed her most and I can't express my gratitude enough. I managed to get to Grand Oaks and to WEC, but Robin was there and she helped me keep things on track.

Pat Carlile, Nina DePetris, Jan Casey and Lisa Boudreau came through as they always do for our agility trials.

My husband John is incredible – he took care of me plus so many details and duties with the trials, the moves, the setting up and tearing down ... his list of contributions is endless. I love him and thank him.

For everyone who helped on setup day at Grand Oaks when I couldn't be there – thank you. And thanks to everyone who helped facilitate the move from Grand Oaks to WEC, the setup at WEC and the packing up at WEC.

We have our Spring Agility Trial at Grand Oaks April 22-23-24 and after that I am stepping down as chair of the MFGRC agility trials. It has been a great run with a lot of friends, memories and accomplishments.

Thanks to you all.

Sincerely,

*Dee Thibodeaux*

MFGRC Agility Chair

# FROM OUR EXHIBITORS



I wanted to thank you and everyone at the MFGRC for putting on a fantastic agility trial. It was well-run and the volunteers were very kind.

It felt like I was at the dog version of Disney World!

This was my first National and I went with my Novice A dog.

The first two years we competed, Penny had a very hard time focusing in the ring and I was still learning how to run a course.

It meant so much to me to earn her PACH 2 on Sunday and to win High in Excellence Preferred on Monday - all in a brand new location. And my friend won Regular High in Excellence! It doesn't get any better than that!

I didn't even know we were eligible for High in Excellence Preferred, either. I thought the games and premier classes were part of the award calculation, so I didn't think we even had a chance.

Please pass on my heartfelt thanks to anyone involved with the agility trial last week.

Best Regards,  
*Megan Sapsford and Penny*

## MFGRC Member Profile . . .



Morgan Brooks and Roadie were the “People’s Choice” at the Top 20 Gala

Morgan Brooks is familiar to most anyone who frequents dogs shows around Florida and other southern states. Known to most MFGRC members as one of the professional handlers they see showing dogs in conformation, Morgan also is a very successful breeder of Golden Retrievers with Monark Goldens that she and her husband Kasey founded.

Morgan and Kasey’s marriage was “Golden” from the start. “I married my husband to get his dog, Calvin, and he said I could have as many dogs as I want as long as they are Goldens,” she jokingly said.

Morgan and Kasey live in Weeki Wachee, Fla., with their two sons Julian and Silas.

Morgan answered some questions from *Golden Tales* to help MFGRC members learn more about her:

**What sparked your interest and when did you start?  
What was your first activity with dogs?**

My mom and I would rescue and rehab stray dogs, train them and find them new homes. I did frisbee and flyball at first and then moved into agility where I met a PBGV breeder. They took me in and taught me all about dog shows. From there I met a Rottweiler breeder that did herding, agility and obedience on top of conformation.

# Morgan Brooks

*By Andy Hall*

She really taught me how to be a junior handler, how to look at structure and how structure impacts the dog's ability to work.

**Did you have a mentor who helped you when you first started?**

Goose Creek PBGVs taught me how to raise and care for a kennel of dogs, whelp litters and put pedigrees together. Chellen Rottweilers brought me into the show world and introduced me to top rottie handlers who then taught me even more.

I met my husband with his Golden who was working with Sally Ray at the time and had a puppy from Margie Sarkin. Together they supported us as a young couple and gave us the knowledge to move forward.

I was handling a lot of spaniels and working breeds at the time and slowly moved into Goldens. We were hired to transport our first Golden, Lucy, and she ended up staying with us forever giving us our first few champion boys. Our focus was on our growing family and handling, which took us away from breeding our own litters for a few years.

*Continued on next page . . .*

# MFGRC Member Profile . . .

Morgan Brooks continued . . .

Over time we met Alicia Maxey and Elaine Kandzari who had a girl with Paula Veibl and told us if we wanted to be a breeder we needed to keep a girl. Through them we leased Lily, who was bred to Michelle Whitney's Goose, giving us our Minnie the Mouse. Mouse has proven herself in the show ring and the whelping box.

## Where does "Monark" come from?

I have a love of butterflies and it just seemed to fit. The K at the end is for Kasey. .

## Do you keep records - or do you even have a rough idea - of how many dogs you've finished championships on?

I had never counted this up before so it took me some time, I'm sure I've missed something somewhere. These are the dogs I bred at my house, picked and showed:

- 11 Bred-By Champions.
- Five Champions we owned but didn't technically breed. I say technically because I was very much a part of the breeding but it was owned by someone else.
- Seven in pet homes that need one win to complete their championships.
- Tallee is a puppy that went to a 14-year-old child. He is just three years old and has 27 titles.

## Typically how many dogs do you have at home that are yours (not counting puppies)?

Five is what I prefer to keep. We grow up at least one puppy from each litter so at times we do have a few more.



## How do you balance all that you do with breeding, showing, travel, etc., with being a mom to two boys?

As the kids have grown up and their lives change, as does ours. Originally they were young and school was easy to take on the road and while on the road we were not able to breed litters. Our focus at that time was handling for me and growing my husband's pressure washing business.

The last five years have been very different after hitting a lot of our family goals. We built and moved into our home, sold the box truck and focused more on the family to find a better balance for the boys. We realized how much we enjoy our Golden Retrievers and the passion for our breed. This time has allowed us to focus on growing Monark and setting different goals for ourselves.

Our boys enjoy the behind the scenes of the dog shows and really help me get everything done. Julian bikes the dogs and helps maintain the vehicles to prep for the shows and set up/break down at the shows. Silas helps feed the dogs while I'm gone and is the best puppy helper. Kasey helped Sally Ray with her litters so he is completely capable of taking care of a litter of puppies at any age.

*Continued on next page . . .*

# MFGRC Member Profile . . .

Morgan Brooks continued . . .

## What are some thing you do to encourage people to participate in dog sports?

My favorite thing is to encourage new people to be a part of dog sports of any kind, especially the kids. A lot of times I get calls from parents desperate to find their kid a dog to do something with. Other times it's people who have one of my puppies and see the excitement their sibling is having and want to join in. During the eight weeks I have the puppies I send out weekly emails with various information and I always include a tidbit about an upcoming event and often times it's one where one of my dogs will be at. Showing a Golden can be exhausting and time-consuming and sometimes they stick with it through the end and often times they don't. Either way it gives me a chance to show off what I have bred, gives me time to build a lasting relationship with the owner and helps me train their dog through their unruly phases. To start them out I suggest when they are planning a vacation without their dog that they give me a call and we see if we can add in a show during that time.

## What's something about you that people would be surprised to learn?

I love to sit on the sidelines.

## What is it about your career that you enjoy the most?

Seeing a kid or brand-new breeder come to me with a hope and dream and watching her succeed has been my favorite thing. It took me a lot of years to gain trust from someone to be able to give me a beautiful bitch to start a breeding program and I never understood that. Everyone deserves a chance. ■



## Objectives of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club

To encourage and promote the purebred Golden Retriever; and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection. To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only Standard of Excellence by which Golden Retrievers shall be judged; and to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials, and field events.

ESTABLISHED 1984

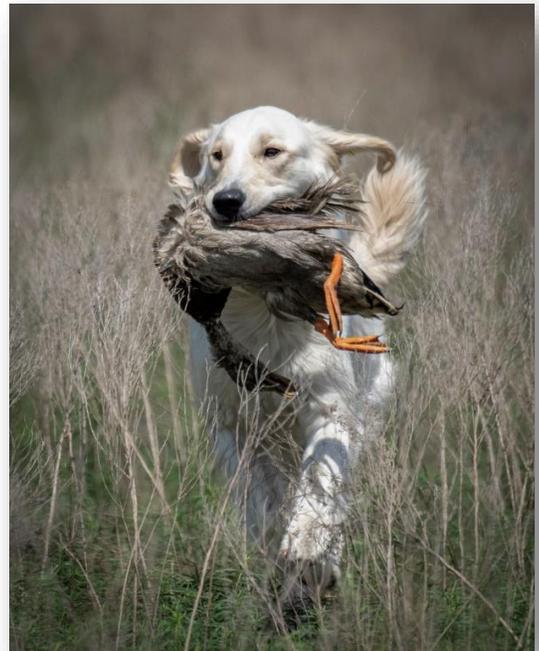
Find us online at: [WWW.MFGRC.ORG](http://WWW.MFGRC.ORG)



## Heidi Buck and Briar Earn 21 New Titles in 2021

*By Andy Hall*

***With what she calls her “once in a lifetime dog,” Heidi Buck started 2021 with lofty goals, and she exceeded them***



Heidi and Briar, her two-year-old Golden girl, earned 21 new titles during the MFGRC awards year across a variety of disciplines, including field, agility, obedience and more. Briar ended the year as HR PAD's In The Thick-Of-It CD JH AX AXJ XF CGCA CGCU TKA WCX.

Heidi, who lives in Palm Harbor, Fla., and Briar have been a team since Briar was eight weeks old and she was the first dog that Heidi has trained from a puppy.

“Briar came along through a friend of a friend who was looking for someone to co-own and train a puppy as she had her hands full with a pup from a litter of her own,” Heidi said. “Phoenix Assistance Dogs had whelped and

raised Briar and she was Sarah's (Rogers) female pick of the litter as the owner of the sire. As the puppies grew they just kept telling me she was the one; she was the one in her litter that did everything first.”

So after Briar came home to Heidi, she began training.

“Obedience training started right away at home with tugging and lots of attention and retrieving games,” she said.

“Briar was introduced to her first duck at nine weeks old by Pat Kopko and she dragged it across the field,” she said. “I was amazed watching her natural instincts at play. When she heard a gunshot she'd look out toward the sound as if she knew that meant a bird had fallen.

“At 12 weeks old she picked up and walked off with a duck at another hunt test. That was the beginning of our field training.”

Heidi said that Briar also was the “star” of her STAR puppy class, but right after graduation, the clubs were shut down by Covid and she spent most of the year working on field training with friends since it was outdoors and accessible. And as an instructor, she also could take Briar to her club (Upper Suncoast Dog Training Club in Clearwater, Fla.) to work on Obedience training on her own. When classes resumed in the fall of 2020, Briar began agility classes and was again a star pupil.



*Continued on next page . . .*

## TWENTY IN 2021 . . .

Heidi started training dogs in 2002 when she adopted an “unruly” two-year-old Weimaraner, with which she earned her first CD. She took a six-year hiatus and then her second dog was a Weimaraner/Vizsla mix that she took to the CDX level shortly before the pandemic began. Then came Briar.

“I had high expectations for her and she’s met them all with flying colors so far,” she said. “She loves to work almost as much as she loves people. She is the sweetest, hardest-working dog I’ve ever worked with and she has definitely made me a better handler.”

“I would have to say field training is the hardest, agility is the most fun and obedience is the most rewarding.”

Heidi said Briar scored a 198 (out of 200) in her first Obedience competition and received High in Trial honors, with the trial occurring one week after Briar’s second birthday. Briar placed second in Novice B at the GRCA National with a 199.5, her highest score yet.

“She is definitely a once in a lifetime dog and companion,” Heidi said. “I think she really is just that good but setting that early foundation was super important too.”

“Linzey Zoccola has been breeding and raising service dogs for PAD since 2009 but no other PAD dogs or other dogs in Briar’s line have titled in field or dog sports,” she said. “Back five generations though you will find that Briar’s lineage stems from Russian and European champions.”



“It’s been very rewarding to help show just how special PAD dogs are and what they can do even beyond their important jobs in service work. Briar is definitely living up to her name. She’s in the thick of it!”

Briar’s 21 titles earned in the 2021 MFGRC awards period include:

Agility – NF, OF, XF, NA, NAJ, OA, OAJ, AX, AXJ  
Field – JH, SHR, HR, WC, WCX  
Obedience— CD  
Other – TKN, TKI, TKA, CGC, CGCA, CGCU



# MACH 7 AGILITY TITLE



Pat Carlile's outstanding Golden girl **Singer** earned her Mach 7 agility title in the MFGRC Agility Trial at World Equestrian Center, making her MACH7 Knox's Singing My Praises MXC2 MJB3 MFG TQX T2B8 CA DJ.  
**Singer** is a two-time MFGRC Agility Dog of the Year.



# ACCOLADES

Cheri Browne and her Golden girl Storm earned Storm's UKC Hunting Retriever Champion title at the South Florida HRC test. Storm's son, Rio earned his first Seasoned pass during the event.



MFGRC president Ann Rowe and her Golden boy Player (Intl CH Magik's Gary Player RA CGC TKN) finished Player's Rally Advanced title at the GRCA National Specialty.



Courtney Roxby's Golden girl Caly (CH GoldRox Beach Don't Krill My Vibe) finished her championship in the Ocala shows with a WB win. Also, the win finished her father Arson's Outstanding Sire title.



Carlotta and Mustapha El Khorchi's Golden girl Wave (CH Leongolden Raised by The Waves) finished her championship at the Sierra-Tuolumne Kennel Club show in Angels Camp, Calif. She was handled by Larry Fenner (pictured).



Tom Misilo and his Golden girl Belle (Cloud9 Princess Belle JH FDC CCA DS DJA CGCA CGCU TKN ) earned Belle's Novice Trick title using the AKC's virtual titling system. Belle also participated in the Morris Animal Foundation Parade of Heroes at the GRCA National Specialty.

# MORE ACCOLADES . . .



Dalia Ruffatto finished three new titles on her Golden girls during the GRCA National Specialty. Cira (left) finished her Rally Novice title and Luna (right) finished her Obedience CD title and her Rally Novice title.



MFGRC board member Pam Ginn's Golden Rhett (GCH Lakewood's Rhett Butler @ Kestrel Farm South WCX JH CCA) and Kestrel (Richwood Every Move You Make @ Kestrel Farm WC) enjoyed success in field events as part of the GRCA National Specialty. Rhett earned his WCX title and his first Senior Hunter pass. Kestrel earned her first Junior Hunter pass and her WC title.



Destiny Martel and her Golden girl Bean (Gemini's and 24k Retrievers Extra Cup of Joe RN FDC BCAT RATO DMA DSA HDS CGC TKN ATT BN) earned Bean's 11<sup>th</sup> title – Beginner Novice Obedience – at the GRCA National Specialty. Her Golden girl Glitz (GCH SHR Rush Hill's Without Consent CD BCAT AJ AN DJX3 DS ATT FDC NAJ JH BN RE RATO CA DJA DJ CGC TKI WC VCX) qualified in the Hunt Test and earned her WC.



Sharlie, the 12 1/2-year-old superstar Golden girl owned by Ron and Pat Ruprecht, joined the "500 Point Club" for HRC hunt tests after passing both of her Finished Tests in the CFHRC HRC Test held in Montverde, Fla. Sharlie is HRCH UH Turbo Steam'n Twilight Dragon CDX MH83 QA2 AD HTHF WCX A VCX OD. Also, four of the Ruprecht's Golden Retrievers earned their CCA (Certificate of Conformation Assessment) titles at the GRCA National Specialty -- JoJo, Darby, Cabo and Scarlet all passed the assessments.

# MORE ACCOLADES . . .



Vern and Diane Gank's Golden boy Ringo Starr (CH Wonderlands It Don't Come Easy) finished his championship in the Ocala shows by going WD/BW for his fourth major, three of which were won in the same week. Ringo was handled by Aaron Wilkerson (pictured).



Patricia Albano (left) and her Golden boy Gabriel passed the GRCA's CCA (Certificate of Conformation Assessment) at the GRCA National Specialty. Patricia is pictured with Laura Bellocchi, MFGRC member and Gabriel's co-owner and breeder at Pathfinder Golden.



Laura Bellocchi's Golden boy Everest (Pathfinder's Base Camp) finished his championship with a five-point major from the BBE class in the Hudson Valley GRC Specialty in West Springfield, Mass.



Debbie O'Hanlon's Golden boy Guapo (Monark's Finding Guapo BN TKI) finished his Beginner Novice Obedience title at the GRCA National Specialty a few days after earning his Intermediate Trick Title.



Robin Bowen was the breeder of Geode (MBISS GCHG CH Prism's All About That Rock, No Pebble SDHF) who finished his Grand Championship Gold status and earned a spot in the GRCA Show Dog Hall of Fame. Geode is owned by Teri Ford and handled by Madeline Peterson.



Max, owned by Warren and Sarah Hutchinson and Morgan Brooks, finished his championship in the Ocala shows. Max (MONARK'S ALL TANGLED UP IN MAX) did it completely out of the Bred by Exhibitor class. Morgan was the handler and breeder and this was Sarah and Warren's first champion.

MFGRC vice president Robin Burket's Golden girl Sascha (Halia's Center Stage CGC CCA) earned her CCA title at the GRCA National Specialty.



MFGRC board member Michele Throm's Golden girl Ary (IntCH Ethos Winter Is Coming At Cachet BN RN JH CCA BCAT RATN DS WC) had a great GRCA National Specialty – she earned her Rally Novice title, her Novice Obedience title, her WC and her CCA. Michele's Golden girl Mia also finished her Rally Novice title at the National.

# MORE ACCOLADES . . .



Susan Howard's star Obedience dog Winston added to his collection of titles by finishing his Obedience Grand Master title in an outdoor trial held in Ocala – during the weekend, Winston earned all first places, four High in Trials and four High Combined. Earlier in the fall, after taking a month off, Susan and Winston finished Winston's OTCH3 (Obedience Trial Champion, third time) and his UDX6 (Utility Dog, sixth time) titles in the Orlando Dog Training Club trial. During the weekend, Winston had four High in Trials, three High Combineds and seven first place finishes. Susan and Winston also competed in field events at the GRCA National as did her younger dog Flyte who earned WC and WCX titles in the same day.



Wendy Huntzinger and her Golden girl Bristol earned Bristol's WCX title at the GRCA National Specialty. Bristol is SHR Turbo Zinger's Gold Rush JH WC WCX.



Tom Wiegand's Golden girl Fly (Bridgeton's Fly Away It Ain't Over SH WCX RN) finished her WCX and Rally Novice titles during the GRCA National and completed a Master Hunter pass. Fly is trained and handled by Nancy Clinchy (pictured).



Karyn Angel's Golden boys Timer and Cody earned their Working Certificate Excellent (WCX) titles at the GRCA National Specialty. Earlier, they finished their UKC Started Hunting Retriever (SHR) titles at the Charleston Retriever Club test in Society Hill, SC.



Ann-Marie Poertner's Golden boy Yukon (Roc Starz North to Alaska JH) won his Started Retriever title in the South Florida Hunting Retriever Club UKC Hunt Test in Indiantown, Fla. Yukon was handled by MFGRC member Brian Parker.

# MORE ACCOLADES . . .



Connie Adams and her Golden girl Katie (UR 02 Stonypoint's Nitetym Serenade, CD SCN SIN RA BCAT TKN RATS ASCA-RN CCSS-2) finished Katie's Rally Excellent title at the 2021 GRCA National Specialty.



Joyce Swegle finished two titles on her Golden at the Brevard Kennel Club trial. Her Golden boy Benjamin earned his UD title while Phinn earned his RM3 (Rally Master third level). And a few days earlier, her Golden Rhys won the Rally Intermediate class at the GRCA National Specialty.



Elizabeth Scherer's Golden boy Orion finished his Rally Excellent title at the GRCA National Specialty while also earning bonus legs in Rally Advanced and Novice Obedience. Orion is Gazn Journeys of Orion CD RE CGC TKN FDC.



D'Nette Musser and her Golden boy Tank (CH 24k Retrievers Tango Yankee BISS, BOSS, RN, DN, CGC) earned Tank's Rally Novice title at the GRCA National Specialty.



Jenny Ford's two Golden boys Gunnar and Hoosier earned their Trick titles using the AKC virtual system. They are Captivate Gunnar's Rocky Road @FGR CGC TKN and Ford's Golden Range Hoosier Stripes Rock CCA CGC TKN



Nina DePetris' Golden girl Pippa (Knox's Pip Pip Hooray OA NAJ OF NFP) finished her Open Standard and Open Fast agility titles, while winning both classes, in the Bratty Paws agility trial in Port Charlotte, Fla. Also, Nina's Golden girl Peaches earned her Masters Agility Silver title. Peaches was the 2019 MFGRC Agility Dog of the Year.



Jordyn Vanscoy's Golden girl Fannie (SMF Fan Girling at Barnwood CGC) earned her Canine Good Citizen (CGC) title.



*Merry Christmas to all. . . and to all a good night!*

Photo via Amy Ellard - MFGRC Facebook Group