

Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club

March, 2014

President's Message

Hello, everyone.

I am delighted to see the renewed vigor and interest in the club for things both old and new. We have had a number of new member applications with people who are eager to volunteer and join in the fun. We have had many members step forward to volunteer for events and we have had a good turnout at our meetings so far this year. Our next meeting is at Robin and Denny Scott's home in Eustis on April 13th, and will be a Rally Fun Day hosted by Joyce Swegle. Huge thanks to Tom Young and Deb Farris for hosting us at Deb's son's ranch in New Port Richey for our March meeting. It was fantastic with the dogs retrieving bumpers in the beautiful pond and Tom hosting retrieving training for newbies and puppies with real birds. You really missed a good time if you weren't there.

The new Board has jumped in with great ideas and great attitudes and I am so grateful for their support. Speaking of support, I got a phone call yesterday from Michael Guy, who is the vet at the Morris Animal Foundation who is running the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. The Morris Animal Foundation is still fervently looking for puppies to join the Lifetime Study. It is so important that we do everything we can to try to end the various that are taking most of our goldens, many of them way too young. If you are not aware of the study, please go on line to the Morris Animal Foundation website and read about the study at www.caninelifetimehealth.org/ and please consider entering your dog if they are under 2 years old, or encourage your friends if they have youngsters under 2. If you have a problem finding a vet who will participate, let me know and we will get you the name of a local vet who will gladly do the yearly exams and process the paperwork so your dog can join and help to make a difference to our breed. My boy Axl joined when he was four months old and just had his second check-up. He got a doggie lollipop for being so good. If you are a breeder, PLEASE encourage your puppy buyers to join the study. It is the most worthwhile thing you will ever do.

We are still trying to find a suitable site for our Christmas Awards dinner which will be after our Specialty at Eukanuba in December. If you have any ideas for a location close by, please let us know. Also, with regard to the Board's previous decision to do away with the TDX at our test, the Board is revisiting that decision. Tom Young is in the process of finding new land for the tracking test that might provide a better opportunity to run TDX tracks and we are looking at other options to to offer at least one or two TDX tracks if we are forced to stay at the same site (Lee Vista). Linda Hitchcock volunteered to be the new tracking chairman so Luci Seeley can judge for us or run her dogs and we accepted her offer. Many thanks to Luci for being our chairman for the past few years - we couldn't have done it without her.

Things are looking up folks, so be there or be square at the many upcoming opportunities to be a vital part of the club and enjoy your friends and their dogs.

Cheers.

Pat Kopco MFGRC President











MFGRC 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
April 13, 2014	General Meeting	20040 = '	RSVP to Pat or Mike at baddogs@tampabay.rr.com or 305-343-3315



Chair Person URGENTLY Needed 2014 MFGRC Fun Match

MFGRC puts on a yearly fun match that includes obedience, rally, and conformation. This year we need someone to chair the event, or it will not happen! Mentoring is available, so you won't be "going it alone." It's a great event for members and their dogs, and it's all for fun!

HELP WANTED

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Pat Kopco at baddogs@tampabay.rr.com





GOLDEN TALES IS A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-FL GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB

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

MFGRC OFFICERS FOR 2014

PRESIDENT	PAT KOPCO	pkopco@kopco-law.com	863-859-4610
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Golden Tales is the official publication of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club. It is published monthly online.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Included with paid MFGRC MEMBERSHIP. Available online at mfgrc.org.

MFGRC MEMBERSHIP: Membership information is available from Dee Thibodeaux at 970-396-6121, or deejohn@me.com.

Individual: \$25 Family: \$25

Associate (non-voting): \$25

Membership rosters are available to MFGRC members, but are not intended for business, non-profit or personal solicitation in any manner whatsoever.

CLUB CORRESPONDENCE: Should be sent to Deena Strauss, 12602 Butler Bay Court, Windermere, FL 34786, or dsgoldens@gmail.com.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Full page (with photo): \$25* \$15* $\frac{1}{2}$ page (with photo): Commercial full page: \$50 \$30 Commercial ½ page: Business card: \$50/yr

*Ads for litters must be accompanied by copies of all health clearances to the puppy referral coordinator.

NOTE: For all advertisements placed in Golden Tales, advertisers MUST send payment in with the ad to the Newsletter Editor at the time of submission. If submission of the advertisement is done via email the ad cannot be placed in Golden Tales without payment. Please send payment to Leah Wright, 459 Weathersfield Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714. Make all checks payable to MFGRC. It is the Advertisers responsibility to confirm with the Newsletter Editor that she has receive your advertisement and your payment.

LITTER ANNOUNCEMENTS: Offered as a service in conjunction with MFGRC's puppy referral He. Health clearances and \$25 must be submitted to the puppy referral coordinator (see previous page) prior to publication of the announcement.

BRAGS, IN MEMORIAM, EVENT LISTINGS: Items of this nature will be printed with NO CHARGE and must be submitted to the Editor. The editor reserves the right to make changes for content OR length.

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From the Editor . .

There was much fun to be had at our fun field day on March 22, 2014. We owe a huge thanks to Board member Tom Young for planning and organizing the event, and having lots of fun field activities (including LIVE birds) to introduce to the puppies and even the older dogs that were lucky enough to attend.

There were lots of puppies getting their eyes on the live birds and displaying some very "birdy" qualities. I think we'll see them at some hunt tests as soon as they're old enough. All in all, the dogs had a rollicking, grass rolling, bumper fetching good time. A huge thanks to Megan Cloudman for the wonderful pictures!

Thanks also to Board member Deb Farris and her daughter-in-law Tammy Farris for allowing us to use the gorgeous property and home at Kiddy Up Ranch in New Port Richey. More about Kiddy Up later in the newsletter.

Our next general meeting will be a Rally fun day put on by Joyce Swegle on Sunday, April 13, 2014. Robin and Denny Scott have graciously allowed us to use their grounds. Directions will be available soon. Please be sure to RSVP to Pat and Mike if you want to have lunch. Denny Scott will be cooking burgers and hot dogs, and members are asked to bring their favorite side dish or dessert to share. I'm sure we're in for another great day with our dogs learning new stuff!

The club still needs a chair person to run our fun match that we have every year. Unfortunately, if no one steps up to volunteer then we won't be able to hold this event. We have a mentor standing by ready to answer questions and lend assistance, and we even have a venue if we want it. All we need is someone to put the pieces together. If that person is you, please contact Pat Kopco and tell her so we can get the ball rolling.

That's all for now! Until next time . . .

Leah Wright Editor



That puppy got MY duck!

Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club Board Meeting February 11, 2014

Board Members Present: Pat Kopco, Mike Orloff, Sheree Melhuish, Dee Thibodeaux, Deb Farris, Tom Young, Laura Topping, Caroline Roetzer, Debbie Finch, Leah Wright and Kristin Sipus. The meeting was held via telephone conference call and called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Vice President's Report: Dee Thibodeaux reported that she did not have any membership applications to read. Debbie Finch presented a membership application presented at the hunt test from Jason Jones, sponsored by Tom Young. After reading the application, the Board voted unanimously to accept the application.

Secretary's Report: Motion was made by Tom Young to waive the reading of the minutes of January 23, 2014, and seconded by Mike Orloff. Pat reported that Leah Wright has agreed to serve as club secretary for 2014. A second Livescribe pen has been ordered and delivered to Pat, and it may be necessary for Board members to record minutes at some of the general meetings if Leah cannot attend.

Pat reported that Deena Strauss will serve the position of Communications Director. She will be the person listed as the address for incoming mail communications for the club from AKC, etc. Discussion was held about how to notify the AKC of the change in officers and directors for this year. Pat will contact the AKC to find out how to accomplish this. We also need to send in an updated roster.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie Finch will be updating the roster in March. Discussion was held regarding the NSF check for the agility trial and how to proceed with collections. Pat will consult with the AKC and will send a letter to the exhibitor. There are several people who have still not paid dues. We anticipate a profit for the February hunt test. Debbie presented the treasurer's report for February to date. We do not publish information regarding club finances on the internet.

Committee Reports:

Agility Trial: Discussion was held regarding expenses, venues, volunteers, and entry fees. Sheree Melhuish made a motion that we hold the agility trial for 2014 at Turkey Lake Park and that Camille Doehring be asked to pick a co-chairperson and chair the trial. The motion was seconded by Mike Orloff and unanimously approved. Pat will speak with Camille to see if she is willing to chair the trial again for 2014.

February Hunt Test: Pat thanked all of the Board members who attended and helped out at the hunt test.

TD/TDX: Debbie Finch reported we had 5 TD and 3 passes, including one golden. We had 3 TDX, but no passes.

Obedience Trial: Joanne Hell will chair the obedience trial as long as we have volunteers to help clean up.

December Hunt Test: Tom Hell has agreed to chair the hunt test in December 2014.

<u>WC/WCX</u>: Deb Farris suggested holding the WC/WCX for our club the same weekend as the Florida Gulf Coast Golden Retriever Club, having one test on Saturday and one on Sunday. Discussion was held.

<u>Specialty</u>: Caroline Roetzer reported she is waiting for further information. She is preparing the application and will be looking at judges from the Eukanuba panel. Discussion was held regarding judge expenses and compensation.

New Business:

<u>Volunteers</u>: Discussion was held regarding incentives to offer members for volunteering. Tom Young made a motion to form a committee consisting of Tom Young, Laura Topping and Deb Farris who will look at ways to encourage volunteerism. The motion was seconded by Deb Farris, and unanimously approved. The committee will bring suggestions to the board at the next meeting.

Old Business:

<u>Holiday Party</u>: Caroline Roetzer reported that Maggiano's is too expensive at \$41.95 per person. Discussion was held. Deena Strauss will make some phone calls to see if we can find a venue for the holiday party and end of year meeting. Caroline will check with Eukanuba to see if there is anything available at the venue.

<u>Fun Match</u>: We still need a chair for the fun match this year. Discussion was held holding the fun match in conjunction with an AKC specialty. Florida Gulf Coast is having a fun match in conjunction with the Tampa shows in June. Pat Kopco will speak to a club member who might be interested in chairing and report back to the board.

Next Meeting:

The next board meeting will be via telephone conference, on Tuesday evening, March 4th, 2014.

Adjournment: Mike Orloff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Tom Young seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Leah Wright Secretary

MFGRC General Meeting February 22, 2014

The meeting, held at Lake Parker Park in Lakeland subsequent to the conclusion of the GRRMF Reunion, was called to order by president Pat Kopco at 3:45 p.m. Members present in addition to Pat: Dave Bassler, Debbie Finch, Tom and Joanne Hell, Kim and Linda Hitchcock, Ted, Tom and T.J. Misilo, Allison Peck, Liz and Dave Waldschmidt, Julie Wand, Leah Wright, Tom and Debbie Young. Guest/new members present: Susan and Sandy Dale.

President's Report: Pat Kopco thanked all the members who came out to help with grooming today at the GRRMF reunion.

Pat reported that recently the Board made a decision regarding the TD/TDX based on a recommendation from a member who is also a tracking judge. It has come to our attention that some members disagree with this decision. Pat stressed that members should feel free to approach any member of the board if they have a difference of opinion about any decision the Board has made. The officers and board have phone numbers and email addresses published on the website. There is no decision that is made that cannot be revisited and undone if that is the best decision for the club. However, making derisive comments about the Board on social media is not a productive way to handle these situations, and Pat urged members to do the Board the courtesy of contacting someone on the Board directly to open up these discussions.

Vice President's Report: There were no applications to present to the membership. In Dee Thibodeaux's absence, Debbie Finch reported we have several new members whose applications have been presented to the board, but will not be read until they attend a meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie Finch presented the Treasurer's report, as well as reports on the tracking and hunt tests held in February. We do not publish information regarding club finances on the internet.

Secretary's Report: Pat reported that Leah Wright has agreed to be the club secretary for 2014. Leah reported that the Board and general meetings for January were sent out via mass email to the membership. Motion was made to waive the reading of the January general meeting minutes by Tom Hell and seconded by Joanne Hell, and unanimously accepted.

Committee Reports:

TD/TDX: Pat Kopco reported that the Board decision not to hold the TDX in 2015 will be revisited by the Board, as there are several members who need to be consulted.

Fun Day: Tom Young reported that the club will be holding a fun day and general meeting with a potluck lunch on March 22, 2014, at the Kiddy Up Ranch owned by Deb Farris's son and daughter-in-law in New Port Richey. We will be requesting members to RSVP for this meeting. Leah will send out a mass email to the membership.

Obedience Trial: Joanne Hell reported the club will be holding an obedience trial August 9 and 10, 2014. Joanne will be chairing the event, with Debbie Finch assisting her. We need a head steward, hospitality chair, and food sales. Debbie Young volunteered to chair the hospitality committee.

December Hunt Test: Tom Hell reported the hunt test will be held on December 6 and 7, 2014.

Agility Trial: Pat Kopco reported that the club is still planning to hold the agility trial at Turkey Lake Park in October. We have had a lot of requests for other facilities to hold the test inside a facility with air conditioning. Discussion was held regarding some of the cost savings to having the trial indoors versus outside, and the board will be discussing those options.

Fun Match: Pat Kopco noted that the club usually holds a fun match every year, but we need a chair in order to do so in 2014. A mass email will go out to the membership to ask if any member is willing to chair this event, and a want ad will be placed on the website. The chair must get judges, stewards, a secretary, trophies, and find a facility. Das Hund Haus might be available for the match. Joanne Hell will be happy to mentor the chair.

Old Business:

2014 Holiday Party: Pat Kopco reported that the Board is looking into options for the 2014 holiday party. We have already investigated restaurants or hotels close to the Orlando Civic Center so that we could have the party in conjunction with our specialty at Eukanuba on December 12, 2014.

End of Year Titling Rosettes: Pat Kopco stated that she has brought the 2013 titling rosettes to the meeting and they can be picked up today. She also stated that she has the end of year titling ribbons for years 2008 through 2012. A mass email will be sent out to the membership asking them to contact Pat at baddogs@tampabay.rr.com if they want their rosettes. Any rosettes that are not claimed by April 1st, 2014, will be recycled to a charity for mentally challenged children.

New Business:

Volunteer Incentive Committee: Pat Kopco reported that one of the problems the club is having with putting on our events is volunteers. The Board created a committee consisting of Tom Young, Deb Farris, and Laura Topping to come up with incentive ideas for volunteers. Tom Young reported that the committee has an idea for a raffle with tickets given to workers to win gift certificates. It will up to the chair of each event to distribute the tickets to the workers. Other ideas will be presented to the Board.

2013 End of Year Awards: Pat Kopco thanked Robin Scott, Ann Rowe, and Joyce Swegle for tallying the results for the end of year dog awards. Winners will be published on the newsletter and via mass email, as well as on the website. The winners are:

2013 Dog Awards

SHOW DOG OF THE YEAR

BISS GCH BOCA GOLD'S PEKING DUCK SDHF JH WCX
MICHELE AND NATE WHITNEY

OBEDIENCE DOG OF THE YEAR

LIEBCHEN'S SMOKEY BONES VCD1 UD BN RE TD OAP THD CGCA RALPH AND MARIA ORLANDO

TRACKING DOG OF THE YEAR

LIEBCHEN'S SMOKEY BONES VCD1 UD BN RE TD OAP THD CGCA RALPH AND MARIA ORLANDO

AGILITY DOG OF THE YEAR

KNIGHTDRMZ FRANKS FOR THE MEMORIES CD MX MXJ XF ROBIN SCOTT

PREFERRED AGILITY DOG OF THE YEAR

KNIGHTDRMZ SOFTWIND N MOONLIGHT KISSES VCD2 CDX TD RA AXP AJP XFP JOYCE SWEGLE

RALLY DOG OF THE YEAR

SHR AUTUMN GROVE APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION JH WC
PAT KOPCO AND MIKE ORLOFF

FIELD DOG OF THE YEAR

HRCH BLAZINGLAKE ROCKSTAR BARK AT THE MOON CD BN RN MH WCX ** CCA VC PAT KOPCO AND MIKE ORLOFF

VERSATILITY DOG OF THE YEAR

RICHWOOD MOMENTS AWAY SH WCS BISS KRISTIN AND EUGENE SIPUS

2013 People Awards

MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

TOM AND JOANNE HELL

MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARD

RALPH AND MARIA ORLANDO

LOYD KIERNAN AWARD

LEAH WRIGHT

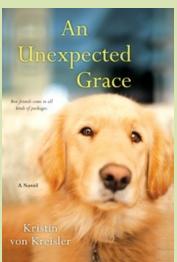
FALLCHASE OWNER/HANDLER OF THE YEAR AWARD

VERN GANK

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Debbie Young and seconded by Ted Misilo . The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Leah Wright.





Lila Elliot knows she's lucky. A shooting rampage at her office left several colleagues dead and others seriously wounded. Lila's injuries will heal in time. Yet though she gratefully retreats to her best friend's house to recuperate, Lila can't quite move past her fear and anger. Being drafted into caring for Grace – a shaggy, formerly abused golden retriever – only adds to her

stress. Lila has been terrified of dogs since childhood. But Grace, like Lila, needs time and space to heal.

Sensing Lila's wariness, Grace keeps her distance and only perks up for Adam, the neighbor who rescued her. Though struggling to make sense of her recent tragedy, Lila, an accomplished artist, begins to see beauty in Grace's wisps of fur and haunted eyes. As Adam points out, Grace, too, has suffered through no fault of her own. And in helping Grace to trust, Lila is being gently nudged toward the courage she needs to do the same.

Rich in warmth and humor, *An Unexpected Grace* is a story of compassion and connection, and of finding that what truly makes us whole again may be the love we give away.



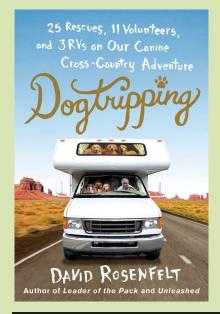
Kristin von Kreisler was born on October 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. All her life she has loved and rescued animals. She has written bestselling books about them and has spoken about their welfare on Coast to Coast to 560 U.S. cities and on the Voice of America to 123 million people.

Her most recent book, An Unexpected Grace, is a novel about a woman and a golden retriever helping each other

recover from violence and abuse. A memoir, For Bea, is about Kristin's beagle, who came from a medical lab and influenced her to become an animal writer. Her books have been translated into ten languages, and her first book, The Compassion of Animals, was a Book of the Month Club Selection.

Before writing books, Kristin freelanced for magazines and newspapers. To get her stories, she followed a grizzly bear for a week, went hang gliding to see how an eagle felt soaring through the sky, and watched in awe as millions of bats emerged from a cave at dusk like clouds of smoke. Kristin's articles have appeared in anthologies and textbooks and in the Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, Los Angeles Times, Woman's Day, Family Circle, Ladies' Home Journal, and Reader's Digest, where she was a staff writer. She has taught English at the University of Hawaii and journalism at California State University at San Jose.

Kristin lives on an island in Washington, where, she says, she'd rather work in her garden than breathe. Her kale grows to looming giants, and her lavender and catmint are sirens calling bees. From her desk she watches ospreys and seals, and every hour a ferry passes by. She and her husband, John, have just renovated a historic Victorian farmhouse, where the island's first postmistress and sheriff once lived with their seven children.



Stetson University Hosts Best-Selling Mystery Author and Animal Rescue Advocate David Rosenfelt

February 18, 2014

GULFPORT, Fla.— Stetson University College of Law's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida present a talk and book-signing by best-selling mystery author and animal rescue advocate David Rosenfelt on April 14 on Stetson's Gulfport campus. The event is free and open to the public.

WHEN: Rosenfelt's presentation will begin at 12 p.m., followed by a booksigning with the author. Rosenfelt's books will be available for purchase during the event.

WHERE: The presentation will take place in the Mann Lounge on Stetson's Gulfport campus, 1401 61st St. S.

WHO: Rosenfelt is the Edgar and Shamus Award-nominated author of 16 books, including the Andy Carpenter mystery series featuring a litigator who directs a dog rescue organization. An avid animal lover himself, Rosenfelt created the Tara Foundation, a charitable organization which has rescued more than 4,000 dogs. His most recent book, "Dogtripping," tells the story of the author's adventures moving across the country from California to Maine, while accompanied by 25 rescue dogs in three RVs. To learn more about the author, visit www.facebook.com/davidrosenfelt.

WHAT: Stetson is one of only a handful of law schools in the U.S. with courses in both Animal Law and International Animal Law as well as an established therapy dog program for its students during exam-time. The coordinator for this event is Stetson professor Peter Fitzgerald, an expert in international trade and animal law who is an advocate for Golden Retriever rescue and dog therapy.

Stetson's trial advocacy program, ranked number one in the nation, has consistently ranked at or near the top since U.S. News & World Report began the rankings in 1995.

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About Stetson University College of Law

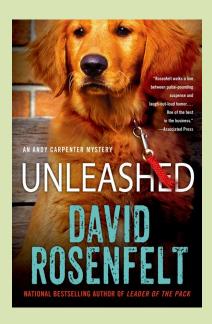
Stetson University College of Law, Florida's first law school, has prepared lawyers and leaders since 1900. Today, Stetson leads the nation in blending legal doctrine with practical training, evidenced by its top-ranked programs in advocacy and legal writing. Through our academically rigorous curriculum and commitment to social responsibility, Stetson lawyers are ethical advocates ready to succeed in the legal profession.

Andy Carpenter is a top criminal law litigator, and an animal lover. Carpenter's exploits saving both humans and dogs from death row, while accompanied by his beloved Golden Retriever "Tara", are detailed in a dozen novels by Edgar and Shamus Award-nominated and best-selling author David Rosenfelt.

Now Andy, or rather his creator David Rosenfelt, is coming to the number one school for advocacy training in the country, the Stetson University College of Law, for a talk and book signing to benefit Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida on Monday April 14, 2014. The talk and book signing will be held from noon until 1pm in the Mann Lounge at the College of Law; 1401 61st Street South; Gulfport, Florida 33707. (Directions to Stetson's Gulfport Campus are available at http://www.stetson.edu/law/about/home/directions.php#GulfportCampusDirections.)

Rosenfelt is the former marketing president for Tri-Star Pictures who, like his character Andy Carpenter, is an unabashed animal lover. Rosenfelt and his wife created the Tara Foundation, shortly after the real Tara died, which has since rescued more than 4,000 dogs. Additionally, Rosenfelt says "when a dog is too old or sick to be wanted by others, they come to our home to live out their years." "At any one time we have close to 35, occupying every piece of carpet and furniture in the house" - something which Rosenfelt acknowledges might "give new meaning to the word 'eccentric'." So, in addition to talking about his Andy Carpenter mystery series, Rosenfelt will share his hilarious adventures moving from California to Maine while accompanied by 25 rescue dogs of his own, in three RVs, which was the subject of his best-selling book "Dogtripping".

Stetson's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund Chapter is pleased to host David Rosenfelt for this event. As one of only a handful of law schools with courses both in Animal Law and in International Animal Law, and an established therapy dog program for its students during exams, Stetson is proud to be part of the development of this emerging new field of legal study – and to help highlight local groups such as Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida.



Kiddy Up Ranch

Therapeutic Riding Center



Click on the Logo for More Information

Editor's Note: MFGRC members who do therapy work with their golden retrievers at nursing homes, hospitals, schools, and other care facilities are very aware of how this type of therapy makes life better for people who are homebound, ill, or those with disabilities. Please take a second to read about another kind of therapy work being done with horses and disabled adults and children at Kiddy Up Ranch. Tammy Farris is the daughter-in-law of our Board member Deb Farris, and the work she is doing is so inspiring.

Therapeutic riding is an emerging field in which horses are used as a tool for both physical therapy and emotional growth and learning. Many riders experience a connection to the horse that few sports or activities can create. For those riders who cannot walk, the horse is their vehicle of transport. Not only does this help raise their self-esteem but it also teaches them essential skills. It improves balance, creates trust and creates a friendship between rider and horse.

The benefits of horseback riding are as numerous as the types of disabilities and conditions served. Research shows that students who participate in therapeutic riding can experience physical, emotional and mental rewards. Because horseback riding gently and rhythmically moves the rider's body in a manner similar to a human gait, riders with physical disabilities often show improvement in flexibility, balance and muscle strength.

For individuals with mental or emotional disabilities, the unique relationship formed with the horse can lead to increased confidence, patience and self-esteem. The sense of independence found on horseback benefits all who ride. The therapeutic qualities of horseback riding are recognized by many medical professionals, including the American Physical Therapy Association and the American Occupational Therapy Association. Individuals of all ages, with a wide range of physical, cognitive and/or emotional disabilities benefit from therapeutic horseback riding and other equine activities.

Physical benefits include:

Improved gross motor skills Trunk core strength Control of extremities Improved postural symmetry Reduced abnormal muscle tone Respiratory control

Cognitive benefits include:

Improved attention Visual coordination Sensory input Tactile response

Improved timing and grading of responses Improved ability to express thoughts, needs

Psychological benefits include:

Enjoyable interactions with the animal Opportunities for social interaction Improved self-esteem

Tammy Farris is the founder and president of Kiddy Up Ranch



Her work with disabled adults and children began while volunteering for another therapy center in the area. Tammy's love for them grew daily and God led her to launch out on her own to begin Kiddy Up Ranch Therapeutic Riding Center. Although she works with all ages of disabled bodies, Tammy's specialty is working with children.









MFGRC FUN FIELD DAY



Saturday, March 22, 2014





Photos
Courtesy
Of
Megan
Cloudman































Doggie Dictionary

LEASH: A strap that attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

DOG BED: Any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

DROOL: A liquid that, when combined with sad eyes, forces humans to give you their food. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and get drool on the human.

SNIFF: A social custom used to greet other dogs, similar to the human exchange of business cards.

GARBAGE CAN: A container which your neighbors put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and moldy crusts of bread.

BICYCLES: Two-wheeled exercise machines, invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush and dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards. The person then swerves and falls into the bushes, and you prance away.

DEAFNESS: This is a malady which affects dogs when their person wants them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction or lying down.

THUNDER: This is a signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly and following at their heels.

WASTEBASKET: This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes and old candy wrappers. It is important to evenly distribute its contents throughout the house before your person comes home.

BATH: If you find something especially good to roll in, humans get jealous and they use this degrading form of torture to get even. Be sure to shake only when next to a person or a piece of furniture.

LEAN: Every good dog's response to the command "sit!" especially if your person is dressed for an evening out. Incredibly effective before black-tie events.

BUMP: The best way to get your human's attention when they are drinking a fresh cup of coffee or tea.

GOOSE BUMP: A maneuver to use as a last resort when the regular bump doesn't get the attention you require...especially effective when combined with the sniff. See above.

CHILDREN: Short humans of optimal petting height. Standing close to one assures some good petting. When running, they are good to chase. If they fall down, they are comfortable to sit on.

LOVE: A feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky, a human will love you in return.



Puppy Referral

I want to thank everyone for allowing me the privilege to work as your Puppy Referral Representative. Puppy Referral is like a 'Welcome Mat' to all that our club has to offer to prospective new members (puppy buyers). It allows us the opportunity to meet and educate the public while assisting in placing quality, healthy puppies into new homes.

Puppy Referral is a **tool** to help you, as a breeder, find good homes. There are no quarantees that the public will choose to buy a puppy from you simply because you list a litter on our club's website. In other words, it is not the club's responsibility to place a breeder's puppies. Here are a few FAQs about the puppy referral process:

#1) When people call me I DO NOT send them to a particular breeder or listing. Instead, I refer them to the website so that they can obtain the information for all of the litters listed at the time. If I have new litter information not yet up on the website, I will give that information to them as well.

#2) Our webmaster places the listings as they come in. They are not listed in any particular order (i.e., date of birth, alphabetically, location, etc.) Most puppy buyers look for puppies 'closest to home' first; how they are listed is of little importance.

#3) The club has set a listing time limit of four months from date of birth. However, if a litter has been previously listed, a breeder has a puppy returned for any reason, that puppy is put back on referral at no charge. It may appear that the 'litter' has been listed for an extended period of time.

Over the past several months it became very clear that we needed to address some issues concerning the Puppy Referral program. As a result, our board has decided to make the following listing requirements:

Puppy Referral Requirements Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club

- Must be a regular member in good standing during the previous 12 months
- Puppy referral listing will be limited to 4 months after litter whelp date
- Fee Schedule:
 - If member has attended 2 general club meetings and worked at 1 MFGRC sponsored event during the previous 12 months the fee is \$25.00*
 - If member has not attended 2 general club meetings and has not worked at 1 MFGRC sponsored event during the previous 12 months the fee is \$250.00

*It is the responsibility of the club member to notify the club secretary and the event chairperson to receive credit for these requirements.

Examples of MFGRC sponsored events that qualify for puppy referral:

Winter Hunt Test Golden Retriever Rescue Grooming Day Spring Match Heart and Eye Clinic **Annual Specialty Tracking Test** Fall Hunt Test **Agility Trial** CCA WC/WCX

Participation on club sponsored teams (DACOF/DOCOF)

Submitted by: Deb Farris, Puppy Referral Coordinator



Available Litters

Please go to mfgrc.org to check for available litters







Can you take 15 minutes to watch a great video about what this study is all about? If so, click on me and I'll take you there!

A Newbie's Perspective on Hunt Tests

Editor's Note: Over the years, I've heard many a story from folks about their first experience at a hunt test. Below are some excerpts that I'm printing with the permission of Christine Stresau. This is part of an email she wrote to her sister after Christine and her husband Fred attended our February hunt test, which was their first exposure to the sport. We hope they'll be joining the club soon, when they get their own golden puppy. The comments in italics are mine.

The dogs are divided into juniors, seniors, and masters ... The set-up is basically the same in all classes. Hunting blinds are manned by "hunters". In some cases, the hunters shoot live birds; in other cases, they shoot blanks and catapult previously killed birds onto the course.

Me: I can remember asking Susan Fulenwider the first time I attended a hunt test if people were really out there shooting guns. And that's not even the dumbest question she heard that day!

Unless a dog mauls a bird, it is reused many times. These birds are mallards, bred for this specific purpose. At the end of the trials, carcasses are sold to owners who freeze them for future training, so waste is minimized. Still birds must be killed, and in a couple of cases a handler had to wring the neck of a duck that had been wounded but not killed outright.

Me: I cannot even describe my horror the first time I witnessed the above. Let's just leave it at that.

Starting order is determined days ahead of time The marshal calls out "Number so-and-so and such -and-such, air your dogs." In other words, get the pooch out of his crate and give him time to pee before he gets in line. One black lab came rushing onto the course from behind dozens of parked vehicles and grabbed another dog's duck. He was sent home in disgrace, and his owner lost his \$65 entry fee.

Ducks are "shot" one at a time for juniors. After the dog retrieves his first duck, the second one is dispatched. That way the dog can concentrate on one thing at a time. For seniors, the owner pretends to fire a shot gun in each of three directions while the guys in the blinds actually shoot the birds or fire the blanks and activate the catapult. The dog must retrieve whichever duck his owner sends him toward, although some owners carefully watch to see if the dog has a preference for his starting run and let him have it.

For masters, after the first three birds, the dog is distracted, and two more birds are put into position. The dog has not seen the bird fall but must obey his owner's directions as to where to go. All dogs follow whistle signals. Three blasts means come back, even if you have not found your bird and are just running in circles and making the next dog wait forever. One blast means stop, face your owner, and sit. This is especially important at the two upper levels where the dogs have been trained to follow hand signals. If a dog is way off course, the owner may whistle " stop/sit" and try to point him in the right direction. We saw several masters who were so good that they needed no signals. If a junior or senior passes this land test he may go on to the water.

Masters have a third test which involves both land and water. We watched that this morning, and the dogs are amazing. They jump into the water, up onto an intervening strip of land, and back into the water for a long swim to bring back a soggy mouthful of feathers. In the case of juniors, everyone is just happy if the dog brings back the bird, but seniors and masters are required to sit with the bird in their

mouths for several seconds before the judge allows the owner to take it away.

Masters must complete one more task after retrieving their last bird. They must "honor" the next dog in line by sitting quietly to the side of the starting line until that dog has been sent out for his first bird. When you see how anxious many of these dogs are to run, it is amazing how patiently they sit and watch another dog go.

The junior failures took a variety of forms. The standard poodle got both of his birds with no problem, but he refused to give them back to the owner. Instead of coming to heel, he ran around in circles in front of her and double dog dared her to take it from him. A couple of goldens ran in ever-widening circles until it looked as if one would disappear into the woods. In that case the owner had to give up and whistle him in. Another golden jumped into the pond and decided that it was a giant swimming pool designed for his enjoyment. To heck with chasing that stupid duck. He just swam in circles.

Me: If you see yourself in the above, you are not alone, because all of us have experienced some form of this type of behavior by our dogs at one time or another. Don't worry, no names were given!

Labs seem to live to hunt and move eagerly to the starting line, while goldens seem to think it's all a big party and want to socialize with everyone around. If we stop to think about it, this may be why we hear so many stories of labs being rambunctious and destructive when kept as family pets. They need to run like hell across a field several times a day to use up their nervous energy - otherwise they chew up your furniture, even at age three.

Me: That's a pretty good way to describe the difference between the goldens and the labs at times.

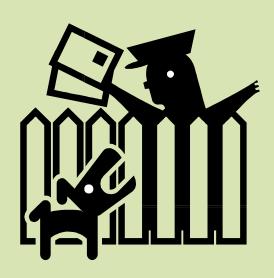


Me: Christine's email was far more detailed than I had space to print, but you can trust me when I say it showed a remarkable understanding of what was going on, how it was organized, and what was required of the dogs. It has taken me years of attending these tests and acting as hunt test Secretary to understand a third of what she gleaned in two days.

THE MAIL BAG

Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida would like to thank all the wonderful, hardworking MFGRC volunteers that helped out at our Annual Rescue Reunion on February 23 in Lakeland. The MFGRC Grooming booth is one of the most popular activities and everyone had rave reviews about how great their dogs looked after having their ears and feet professionally groomed. Thank you for your efforts in raising money and your generous donation. All of us at GRRMF would like to thank MFGRC for their support. Our partnership has lasted for over 23 years and we still are going strong!

Barbara Durham President, GRRMF



Milestones + Accomplishments



Marilynn Booher is thrilled to announce that Rockwillow Magnolia J Booher at JBoo finished her senior hunter title at the Tallahassee Hunt Test 3/15. Yeah!!!

Dr. Nancy Greenbarg is proud to introduce her first Bred by Champion, AmCH Cashmere Blue Sky Basin SH WC CGC CCA BOSS. After winning from the bred by class at this year's Westminster Juicy went on to finish in 2 weeks at the largest shows on the west coast, the Fiesta Cluster for a 4point major and then a 4 GCH point major over GCH and several BOS and



Selects since. Juicy is coming home to see some more ducks, pheasants, and mom Chelsea and dad Rocky.

Ambersand's Little Bear, BN, CD, RE, NAP, NJP, CCA, CGC finished his RAE on March 1st at the Indian River Dog Training Club morning trial, the day after his 9th birthday. He then earned two more RAE legs Saturday afternoon and Sunday the 2nd. He had a 2nd and two 4th places. His "little sister" Ambersand's Heidi RA the Russell Terrier, earned her RE in those three trials with 3 first places. Her RA was earned last fall also with 3 first places. Ellen Bartkus says, "Friends asked how I got a Terrier to do this stuff. I admitted the secret was to wait til she was 12 years old! She finally decided 'my' agenda could on occasion be 'her' agenda." Little Bear and Heidi share their love with Ellen and Chuck Bartkus.



Camille Doehring writes that on March 15, 2014 at the Tallahassee Hunting Retriever Club's hunt test under judges Randall Gerbino and Melissa Robinson, Olivia added a Junior Hunter to her name. Says Camille, "I am very proud of this girl who worked so hard to overcome a major water issue. I couldn't have asked for anything more then how she showed in

her last three tests. Special thanks to Wayne Gey, Alison Schultz, Becky Nicholas and others for their help and advice along the way. Livvy is now Mischief's Law & Order SVU CCA WC JH. Looking forward to more fun with Livvy." (Photo courtesy of Becky Nicholas)

From Mike Orloff and Pat Kopco: HRCH Blazinlake RockStar Bark at the Moon CD BN RN MH ** WCX CCA VC. For the third year in a row, Ozzy qualified to enter the Master National. In order to do this, he had to pass six Master tests each year from



August through July. He did just that – passing six of seven tests since October. He has now passed Eighteen Master tests and he's only four years old. At last year's GRCA National Specialty, when he was still only three, he took the Reserve Jam (fifth place) in the Qualifying Stake at the Field Trial. Mike and Pat say, "When he decides he wants to do his work he is great."



Also from Mike and Pat: HR Autumn Grove Rock-Star Appetite for Destruction SH WC. Axl is a Senior Hunter – at the ripe old age of 21 months! He and Pat passed his fourth Senior Test (out of five) at the Wiregrass Hunting Retriever Club

Spring Hunt Test in Meigs, Georgia on March 1. "He has amazing amounts of drive, desire and talent and just loves this game." Can Master be far behind? Only a year or two!

Deb Farris is thrilled to report that Toby (aka Ch Faragold Wanna Talk About Me JH BISS) finished out 2013 with a bang!!! In November he finished his Am Ch before the age of two with three majors (5 point at the 2012 Eastern Regional at 10 months, two 3 point and a BOB over specials at age 1). The day following his Ch he was BOB and



Group 4. The very next time he walked into the ring he won the first JAM at the FGCGRC. Two weeks following finishing, he earned his fourth JH leg for another title and picked up two SHR legs in the same weekend! To say his momma has had a wild and fun ride is an understatement.

GOLDEN TALES c/o Leah Wright, Editor 459 Weathersfield Avenue Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

