

Golden Tales

MARCH 2020



Golden Senepah

Special Golden Girl Turns 15

MID-FLORIDA GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB



In this issue . . .

Mark your calendars
From the President
Welcome New Members
Cover Story - Golden Senepah

Club Member of the Year Awards
Dog and Competition Awards
New Board Member
MFGRC Specialty

Dock Diving Fun Day
Hunt Test Wrap Up
Youth Circuit
Spotlight

Puppy Meets Orioles Star
Members Honored
2020 National
A Dream Come True

Volunteering
2020 Merchandise
Military Sculpture
Accolades

Elizabeth Scherer's "Kody"

Mark Your Calendars

Barn Hunt Fun Day and General Meeting – May 9 – Lakeland, FL
MFGRC Summer Specialty – June 12 – Tampa, FL
MFGRC Obedience/Rally Trial – August 8-9 – Daytona Beach, FL
General Meeting – September 19 – DeLand, FL
MFGRC Fall Agility Trial – October 9-10-11 – Weirsdale, FL
2020 GRCA National Specialty – October 16-28 – Ocala, FL
MFGRC Winter Hunt Test – November 13-15 – Montverde, FL
MFGRC Specialty – December 11 – Orlando, FL
MFGRC Christmas Party and Annual Meeting – December 12 – Sorrento, FL
(more meetings and events will be listed in the next Newsletter)

From the President . . .



What a beginning of the year it has been! We had our successful MFGRC Specialty and our year end awards in December -- Our Dock Diving Fun Day in February – Our Spring Hunt Test – Members’ Goldens highlighted in the Golden Retriever News Magazine – and many behind the scene activities around our 2020 National that is coming up in October. WOW!

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the many facets of the 2020 National. All of us need to chip in. We plan on making this National one of the “best” ever! With your help the 2020 National will flow seamlessly!

But on a more somber note, we do have a bump in the road ... affecting everyone. The emergence of the potentially fatal coronavirus has spawned strains of uncertainty and has altered our lifestyles. These are stressful times, holding fear and anxiety for many of us. This is life in a pandemic. But this too will pass.

Keep your families close, whether physically or in your thoughts and prayers; be kind to one another – we are all in this together; and be sure to hug your canine friends often. Stay safe. Let’s be careful out there.

Ann Rowe

MFGRC President

Welcome New Club Members!

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club has welcomed new members to its ranks during general meetings held in December, January and February.

At the club's annual Christmas party and general meeting in December, new members voted in during the meeting were Morgan Brooks, Brian Parker, Mel Lucas, Robynn Trautman, Robin and Kim Ward, Susan Howard and MJ Douglas.



New members who were voted in during the general meeting in Brooksville in January were Judy Kaldahl (left) and Lindsey Rodriguez (with Harper). Not pictured but also voted in were Rick and Kris Labitzke.



Robin White was voted in as a new member in DeLand at the Dock Diving Fun Day on Feb 22. Not pictured but also voted in were Julie and Garret Paine and Tracy Martin.



Cover Story

On February 28, a special Golden girl turned 15 years of age. "**Senepah**" belongs to MFGRC members Bonnie and Walter Scherer.

"The most remarkable thing I can say about Senepah is that she risked her life in the Colorado Mountains taking the hit from a venomous rattlesnake by leaping between my husband and the rattler," said Bonnie.

"The reason we are sure of this is because she was snake-proofed (trained) and would leap in the air if she encountered a snake while hunting with my husband.

"He had to carry her out a mile to his car and drive 60 miles to the vet in Taos, New Mexico," she said. "She was given anti-venom and the veterinarian monitored her all night, saving her life."

Bonnie and Walter have participated in MFGRC Hunt Tests and other field activities and Senepah has been trained for outdoor activities. "Senepah has been a remarkable dog and still goes out in the field with us and looks forward to retrieving."

2019 Year-End Club Member Awards



(L-R) Michele Throm, Mover and Shaker Award; Lisa Boudreau, Member of the Year; Dee Thibodeaux, Lloyd Kiernan Service Award; Robin Burket, Above and Beyond Award; and club president Ann Rowe

Mover and Shaker Award
Michele Throm

Nancy McCune
Member of the Year
Lisa Boudreau

Lloyd Kiernan Service Award
Dee Thibodeaux

Above and Beyond Award
Robin Burket

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 Golden Retrievers. 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.

2019 Year-End Dog and Competition Awards

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club announced its 2019 year-end awards recipients and winners at the club's annual Christmas party on December 14 at the home of club president Ann Rowe in Sorrento, FL. Dog of the Year award winners received custom car magnets from the club that were created by club member Anney Doucette of K9-Design.



Agility Dog of the Year
 Peaches (Picabo's Sweet As A Peach
 MX MXJ OF)
 Owner: Nina DePetris



Field Dog of the Year
 Mya (Surefire Myarmani at JBoo CD RN
 MH WCX CCA QAA ***)
 Owner: Marilyn Booher



Rally Dog of the Year
 Lara (Shor'Line Lara Of Ambersand
 Beach TD BN RE CCA DJ
 CGC TKA FDC)
 Owner: Ellen Bartkus



Tracking Dog of the Year
 Sizzle (MACH2 PACH Deauxquest It's A
 Hot VCD2 UD RN MXB2 MJC MXP4
 MXPB MJP3 MJPB PAX MXF CA DJ)
 Owner: Dee Thibodeaux



Obedience Dog of the Year
 Smokey (Liebchen's Smokey
 Bones Mountain Mischief
 VCD2 UDX BN RE MXP AJP OFF
 TD SCN SIN SHDN TDU THD
 CGCA CGCU)
 Owner: Ralph Orlando

Show Dog of the Year
 Ditto (MBISS GCH Questan's RegeneRACEshun MBISS RI DSX DM
 BN RATN CGC TKI) Owner: Julie Wangelin
 Also received perpetual Show Dog of the Year trophy donated by
 Diane and Vern Gank, Wonderland's Golden Retrievers

Versatility Dog of the Year
 Ditto (MBISS GCH Questan's RegeneRACEshun MBISS RI DSX DM
 BN RATN CGC TKI) Owner: Julie Wangelin

Fallchase Owner-Handler Award
 Julie Wangelin
 Ditto (MBISS GCH Questan's RegeneRACEshun MBISS RI DSX DM
 BN RATN CGC TKI)
 Received perpetual trophy donated by Fallchase Kennel



New MFGRC Board Member for 2020

*The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club
welcomed a new member to its board of
directors for 2020 – Dot Hively.*



Dot, who has a long history with dogs and dog sports, joined the MFGRC in 2016 when she got her first Golden Retriever. She had previously owned and competed with Vizslas.

In addition to serving as a board member, Dot and her spouse Allison are volunteer coordinators for the 2020 Golden Retriever Club of America National Specialty, which is being hosted by the MFGRC in October. Dot also is deeply involved in preparing the premium and catalog for the National as well as other tasks.

Dot and Allison live in Lakewood Ranch, FL., with their two Golden girls, Nora and Brooke.

Meet Dot Hively . . .

What was the main portion of your working career spent doing?

My working career primarily was spent in education: first secondary public education as a high school math teacher, principal, director of special education, gifted, assessment, and asst. to the school superintendent in NYC Public Schools and East Hampton Public Schools. Following the completion of my doctorate at Columbia University, I was a professor at Baruch College, in New York and Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV. I also served as special assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Director of Disability Services and Director of Assessment and Accountability at Shepherd University and as dean of student success at

Stevenson University in Owings Mills, MD. Finally, we had the opportunity to retire to Florida, and we knew it was time to go to the dogs!

How long have you been involved with dogs? What was your first dog?

I have been a dog person my entire life. My parents always had a number of dogs and cats at any given time including Black Labs, Weimaraner, Irish Setter, a Bassett, Dachshund, and a Siamese cat. My first dog, a birthday gift from my parents, was a Flat coated retriever named Bruce. He was a wonderful companion when my sister and best friend moved away in the same month. We did everything together!

I was hooked on conformation by attending shows in New York, including Westminster, and my father's brothers showed Afghans and standard poodles. I never wanted a hair dog!

What made you switch from Vizslas to Golden Retrievers and when did you make that switch?

Allison and I saw a Vizsla bitch and her puppy sitting outside of a store waiting for their owner. We thought they were beautiful and we drove to the Vizsla Nationals in Cape Cod, which happened to be the following weekend. We fell in love with the breed and over the course of the years we had three bitches and two dogs. We competed in conformation and hunt tests.



Meet Dot Hively . . . *continued*

We went through a period when we lost all of our dogs to different cancers: hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma, and breast cancer. We wanted a new chapter with a different breed with less cancer, so we picked Golden Retrievers. Obviously, we had a great deal to learn about cancer and Golden Retrievers, but we were willing to take the risk. We love Golden Retrievers (they were our neighbors on the adjacent farm in Maryland).

What are some titles you've won?

Prior to the creation of GCH, we earned championships on three out of our five dogs, and hunting titles on four out of five dogs. We had two Vizslas that were top 10 dogs. It was a very exciting time.

What's your proudest moment in dog sports?

We were thrilled when judges such as Anne Rogers Clark and Michelle Billings recognized our dogs with group placements. One of our proudest moments was watching my heart girl, Emma, on Animal Planet when she won the.



Allison and Dot Hively at the 2018 GRCA National

breed at the Harrisburg Kennel Club. It was one of the biggest shows for Vizslas at the time. My most enjoyable achievement was handling our dogs in hunt tests. I worked with a wonderful trainer on the East end of Long Island who knew how to bring out the best in each pointing breed, and each individual dog. I learned so much from him, as did our dogs

What are some of the activities you've been involved in (for example, club officer, or chairing an event, etc.)?

I was the Secretary and training coordinator for the Mason Dixon Kennel Club, an all breed club in Maryland. I was a show chairperson for the Conestoga Vizsla Club specialty in Maryland. Allison and I were responsible for the catalogs and premium information for the National Gun Dog Trials, and Vizsla Nationals in Delaware, led breed education seminars, assisted at countless hunt tests and specialty shows.



What drew you to the MFGRC?

When we picked up Nora from John and Rosa Blair in August of 2016, they suggested that we join the club. We wanted to learn more about the breed and participate in events with Nora. We have made many friends and truly enjoy the variety of events that the club offers. People do not realize that most breed clubs do not offer nearly as much MFGRC. Now that we have added Brooke to our Golden family, we are enjoying club events even more!



The MFGRC held its annual Specialty on December 13 as part of Royal Canin AKC National Championship week in Orlando and the event attracted 199 entries, the largest ever since the club started the Specialty in 2013. The previous record was 177.

Caroline Kendrick, who has chaired the Specialty every year since it began, again steered the event, which was held at the Orange County Convention Center.

And thanks to the work of Camille Nasca, trophy chair, all available trophy sponsorships for the Specialty sold out almost a month in advance, with MFGRC members buying most of the sponsorships. Camille worked with artist Diane Blasius of Mungo Works to create custom, hand-painted china pieces representing our beloved Golden Retrievers in all their glory for each of the major awards.

Best of Breed in the Specialty went to GCH CH Lakesydes Dancing In My Underwear at Misty Meadows owned by Lisa Schultz and Julie Corral of Garrettsville, Ohio. She was handled by Derek Beatty.

Dr. Steven D. Herman was the judge for the event.



Caroline Kendrick and Camille Nasca



MFGRC Members Enjoy Dock Diving Fun Day

Members of the MFGRC enjoyed a day of dock diving and fellowship on Saturday, February 22 at Central Florida Dog Sports in DeLand. A chilly morning turned into a beautiful day for this outdoor activity.



MFGRC President Ann Rowe and Princess Leia on the dock



(L-R) Betty Lambert, Ann Rowe, Karyn Angel and Lindsey Rodriguez

Jazzmine, who belongs to MFGRC board member Marilyn Booher, swims back with the bumper after a dive



Melissa Vaughan and Cookie going dock diving



First-time dock divers Lindsey Rodriguez and Harper get some coaching from Karyn Angel



(L-R) Melissa Vaughan, Robin Burket, Betty Lambert and Robin Senderowitz watch the dock diving action

HUNT TEST WRAP UP

MFGRC Stages Another Successful Spring Hunt Test



Grady in Senior

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club staged another successful edition of the annual Spring Hunt Test February 8-9 at Golden Oaks Ranch in Montverde, FL.

Run in conjunction with the Central Florida Hunting Retriever Club, the test featured junior, senior and master stakes.

MFGRC member Mike Orloff again served as chair of the event, with co-chair Ted Misilo. MFGRC board member Pat Kopco was one of the judges and club member Macy Swift served as trial secretary. Kristin Sipus was volunteer coordinator.

(continued on next page)

(HUNT TEST WRAP UP continued)

Club member Jeff Rushe also is the CFHRC event chair and the two clubs worked closely together to coordinate everything and keep the weekend running smoothly.

Many other club members contributed to the event by working as marshals and bird handlers as well as helping to set up, move and pack equipment and clean up. Several members also helped by running bye dogs. Members also prepared and distributed lunches for workers and various other jobs needed during the course of the event.

Members who helped were Jean Bates, Marilyn Booher, Robin Bowen, Cheryl Browne, Angelique Burns, MJ Douglas, Pam Ginn, Susan Howard, Kay Johnson, TJ Misilo, Michele Panetta, Brian Parker, Bob Swift, Michele Throm and Hilda and Dave Wood.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the event a success!



Pam Ginn and Rhett



Rick Sankey's Luna

MJ Douglas Hunt Test



YOUTH CIRCUIT . . . *from the younger side*

The Youth Circuit is a new regular feature of Golden Tales and will highlight club members and their children who are active together in dog sports and events. The first edition is on MFGRC member Dalia Ruffato and her son Tyler Sikora.



Tyler and Cira after Cira's first conformation show in Brooksville earlier this year

Tyler's Time *Working towards future career*

Dalia Ruffato has been in love with Golden Retrievers since she grew up with a Golden girl named Alexandra. So it wasn't surprising that her son, Tyler Sikora, followed suit.

"When Tyler was six, he begged for a dog," she said. "He was saying it was all he ever wanted. So we brought home Luna."

Luna has been Tyler's constant companion for almost seven years. Now 13, Tyler has had responsibilities through those years of feeding, walking and helping train Luna.

One of the things Dalia did when she and Tyler first got Luna was to start an Instagram account for her (@lunafish720) and as a result, they made some new friends in the Golden world. Then, five years ago, Dalia and Tyler went to Brooksville to their first dog show to support her friend (and fellow MFGRC member) Johann Goines with Johann's Golden boy Carter.

"A couple of years later we participated in our first dog sport, the Fast Cat, and we have been hooked ever since," she said.

Since Dalia and Tyler moved to the Melbourne area a couple of years ago, Tyler has attended camp for kids during the summer held at Canine Star Training Academy and hosted by Brevard Kennel Club.

"It is a week of working with your dog and learning about various breeds and training," she said. "This summer will be his last summer as an attendee. Next summer he will help train other kids with their dogs."

Tyler has shown Luna in Junior Showmanship in several shows around Florida. On Mondays, he attends conformation class that BKC hosts at CSTA and he attends Rally class at the same location. Tyler and Luna also earned Luna's advanced trick title.

(continued on next page)



Dalia and Luna at MFGRC Dock Diving Fun Day in February



Dalia and Tyler with Luna in dock diving competition at the AKC National Championships

YOUTH CIRCUIT . . . continued

Tyler has shown Luna in Junior Showmanship in several shows around Florida. On Mondays, he attends conformation class that BKC hosts at CSTA and he attends Rally class at the same location. Tyler and Luna also earned Luna's advanced trick title.

Luna has earned multiple dock diving titles with Dalia handling her and Tyler helping.

Tyler has also worked dog shows from the other side of the dog: last year, he stewarded for Rally at the MFGRC Obedience/Rally Trial. He and Dalia have also helped staff the GRCA's "Meet the Breeds" booth at the AKC National Championship in Orlando.

Dalia, who added a Golden girl named Cira to their household last year, has had many proud moments as a mom but two with dogs stand out the most.

"I would say the first time he went in the conformation ring with Luna last year at the Brooksville show and he won first place in juniors," she said. "And then again this year when he won first place in juniors with Cira. He worked so hard in that year and it showed."

For Tyler, he's having fun but also looking further ahead.

"I enjoy working with the dogs and competing with the other people," he said. "I hope this leads to a future or career in showing and doing other dog sports." ■

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



SPOTLIGHT

Julie Wangelin's Ditto Continues Journey of Excellence

Congratulations to MFGRC member Julie Wangelin

The journey of excellence continues for her Golden boy **Ditto**, winner of the MFGRC Show Dog of the Year and Versatility Dog of the Year Awards for 2019.

In January, Ditto (MBISS GCHB Questan's RegeneRACEshun MBISS RI DSX DM BN RATN CGC TKI) officially became Julie's first Bronze Grand Champion while also becoming her first Top 20 ranked Golden Retriever (No. 15 in both Breed and All-Breed Points for the month).

As of mid-March, Ditto had risen to the No. 5 Golden Retriever in breed points and the No. 8 Golden in all-breed points.





Golden Puppy Meets Baltimore Orioles Star

Tom Wiegand brought his Golden pup Angel with him to watch Baltimore Orioles spring training in Sarasota and popular Orioles' catcher Adley Rutschman held Angel for a picture. The Orioles' social media team captured the moment and sent the picture out on Twitter and Instagram to more than 1 million follower.

Tom came back the next day with Angel and they had become stars – the Orioles' general manager even came out to meet Angel.

And by the way, Tom got a baseball signed by Rutschman too.

MFGRC Honors Members in Field Issue of Golden Retriever News

Okefenokee to Everglades

"PREP" JH WC Beth Mooney	"BELLE" JH CCA FDC DS CCA CCG Tom, T.J. & Ned Mingo	"WINDY" CD JH Dix Coustall	"SWEET" SH CCA Robin Bowen	GEN "SWEET" JH Pamela Gunn	CH "THULL" MH WC DSHF Gene & Kristin Sigas
CH "JOURNEY" SH Mika Griffl & Pat Kappas	"JESSE" MH WC Beth Mooney & Ron Rubrecht	"MARTIN" HJ Robin & Maxine Bowen	"LUCAS" EN TD JH WC CCA Bonnie Scherer	"AUSTIN" BN RJ JH CA WC CCA Ann Rowe & Rene Blair	"ZEYD" MH WC Mika Griffl & Pat Kappas
"STAND" JH CCA Robin Bowen	"ELSA" JH WC CCA CCG CCA Ted, Tom & T.J. Mingo	GEN "BRIE" JH WC Anny Davanth	"XELA" JH WC Beth Mooney & Ron Rubrecht	"BELLA" CD TN BE JH DHP CJ WC CCA CCG Michelle Thomas	"MIX" CD BN MH WC Liz Flann, National Specialty, David Long
"KIP" JH WC Beth Mooney & Ron Rubrecht	"NOOD" CD BN JH WC CCA CCG Elizabeth Scherer & Karen Walsh				

We celebrate our members and their new titleholders of 2019!

Mid-Florida
Golden Retriever Club
www.mfgrc.org

The MFGRC honored members by purchasing a two-page ad in the recent "Field" edition of Golden Retriever News, the magazine of the Golden Retriever Club of America. The GRCA requested that all member clubs support the issue in recognition of Golden Retrievers competing in the field, doing what they were bred to do.

The ad saluted MFGRC members who earned Hunt/Field titles in 2018 and 2019 (prior to the publication deadline).

2020 Golden Retriever Club of America National Specialty

Hosted by Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 16, 2020

Hunt Test *(if entries warrant third day)*

Saturday, October 17, 2020

Hunt Test
Field Welcome Dinner
RV Move-In Day

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Hunt Test
MFGRC Agility Trial

Monday, October 19, 2020

GRCA Agility Trial
Vendor Move-In Day
Welcome Dinner/Parade of Titleholders

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Tracking . Sweepstakes
Obedience . Rally

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Conformation
CCA . Obedience . Rally

Thursday, October 22, 2020

Conformation
Gun Dog Sweepstakes
Top 20 Gala

Friday, October 23, 2020

Conformation
Junior Showmanship
Parade of Rescues

Saturday, October 24, 2020

Best of Breed
Parade of Heroes

Sunday, October 25, 2020

WC/WCX

Monday, October 26, 2020

Field Trial

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Field Trial

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Field Trial . Field Trial Banquet

The GRCA National Specialty will span October 16-28, 2020 with the majority held between Monday, October 19, and Saturday, October 24 at the beautiful new **World Equestrian Center in Ocala FL**. MFGRC members Pat Kopco and Tom Misilo are co-chairs of the National.



FOR THE LOVE OF A
GOLDEN
RETRIEVER

Breed Characteristics

Affectionate with Family	★★★★★
Kid Friendly	★★★★★
Easy to Train	★★★★★
Intelligence	★★★★★
Energy Level	★★★★★
Exercise Needs	★★★★★
Playfulness	★★★★★
Easy to Groom	★★
Sensitivity Level	★★★★★
Tolerates Cold Weather	★★★
Tolerates Hot Weather	★★★
Life Span: 10 to 12 years	



Friendly

Reliable

Trustworthy

The Golden Retriever stands among America's most popular dog breeds. They are serious workers at hunting and field work, as guides for the blind, and in search-and-rescue, enjoy obedience and other competitive events, and have an endearing love of life when not at work.

Goldens are a sturdy, muscular dog of medium size, famous for the dense, lustrous coat of gold that gives the breed its name. The broad head, with its friendly and intelligent eyes, short ears, and straight muzzle, is a breed hallmark. In motion, Goldens move with a smooth, powerful gait, and the feathery tail is carried, as breed fanciers say, with a "merry action."

Goldens are outgoing, trustworthy, and eager-to-please family dogs, and relatively easy to train. They take a joyous and playful approach to life and maintain this puppyish behavior into adulthood. For a breed built to retrieve waterfowl for hours on end, swimming and fetching are natural pastimes.

A Dream Come True

Volunteering . . .

Opportunities to Volunteer are Upcoming

August 8-9 – Obedience/Rally Trial in Daytona Beach, FL. Volunteers are needed to work as ring stewards either one day or both days of the trial.

October 9-10-11 – Agility Trial at Grand Oaks Resort in Weirsdale, FL. Volunteers are needed to work as timers, scribes and gatekeepers. In addition, and most importantly, volunteers are needed to help set up for the event on Thursday, October 8, beginning at 1 p.m.

Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact MFGRC club secretary Andy Hall at andyhall58@hotmail.com



Want to Volunteer for the 2020 GRCA National? Here's how . . .

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club is hosting the 2020 Golden Retriever Club of America National Specialty and needs help from all members of the club. Many members have already signed up for various committees and activities related to the 2020 and have already been involved in meetings and planning. But more volunteer positions remain unfilled, both for advance planning and for jobs the week of the event.

Volunteer coordinators Dot and Allison Hively are maintaining an active list of volunteers and jobs. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact them via email – even if you don't know what area you'd like to help with, they can tell you what is available and sign you up. Dot and Allison can be reached via email at 2020GoldenVolunteers@gmail.com

The National Specialty will include 13 days of competition, social events, clinics, seminars, shopping and more. The National will span October 16-28, 2020, with the majority held between Monday, October 19, and Saturday, October 24 at the beautiful new World Equestrian Center in Ocala, FL. Best of Breed will be on Saturday and close activities in Ocala. The Hunt Test and Field Trial events will be held at a nearby location.



From the Merchandise Chair of the 2020 National Specialty

2020 MERCHANDISE ON SALE NOW!



You can find our merchandise on sale on the GRCA online store, see link: <https://www.grca.org/product-category/2020-national-specialty-merchandise/>

We have a variety of items featuring the 2020 logo, such as aprons, canvas bags, polos, sweatshirts, and more!

We also have custom painted T-shirts with specialized art specifically for our Specialty.

PLEASE support our club by purchasing some of our 2020 merchandise!



New sculpture pays tribute to military working dogs . . .

My Hero, My Friend a tribute to military working dogs by sculptor Susan Norris. (Photo by Susan Norris)

Sculptor Susan Norris has a long history of touching the hearts of others through her art, but recently, she took on a new project — one involving man's best friend in everyday life, but perhaps even more so on the battlefield.

Titled "My Hero, My Friend," Norris' newest statue is a life-size bronze sculpture of a military working dog wearing a Purple Heart, mourning the loss of its two-legged companion. "I've always had an affection for animals, but the bond between a military dog and its partner is on a whole other level," Norris said in a press release.

This sculpture is meant to honor the bravery and dedication of a military service dog to its human handler, tugging at the heartstrings of passersby. The sculpture will reside at Veterans Memorial Park in Trophy Club, Texas, inside the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

"It's moving to see people cry when they see my sculpture," Norris added of the reactions to the sculpture.

Military working dogs have gone by all manner of moniker throughout U.S. military history, including K-9 Corps and "war dogs." In various combat eras, they served as guards, messengers, mascots and scouts, according to an Army book on military veterinary services.

As operations in Afghanistan and Iraq ramped-up, so too did the U.S. military's efforts to build a canine program. "Because of the growing threat of improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan and Iraq, mine detection training also resumed," the book reads. "Dogs became members of forward deployed teams, served with airborne units, and were transported by helicopters when needed."

Norris' sculpture isn't the first honoring combat canines, however. In 2008, Congress approved the Military Working Dog Teams National Monument, which was unveiled in 2013 at Joint Base San Antonio — Lackland.

"Humans are continually rediscovering that technology cannot match many canine senses and other inherent abilities, and they also realize that dogs continue to remain loyal even as equipment and conflicts evolve around them," according to the book.



ARTIST COMMENTS – Susan Norris "My Hero, My Friend"

This life size sculpture in bronze, expresses the loyalty and devotion of a Military Service Dog for his fallen master. The mission of this sculpture is to honor the many canine service animals that have demonstrated such brave dedication and unwavering loyalty to their human partners, both in times of war and also in times of healing.

The grief and loss is evident in the eyes of the dog and his extended paw, reaching out to his fallen friend, and hero. The title, "My Hero, My Friend", tells the story of the mutual admiration that both had for each other in life, and in death.

Accolades . . .



MFGRC board member Michele Throm's Golden girl Ary earned her Junior Hunter title in December at the Treasure Coast Hunting Retriever Club hunt test in Okeechobee. On the same day, Michele ran club president Ann Rowe's girl Ellie and she also passed, earning her JH title. In January, Ary added another title to her name with her final FAST CAT leg in Brooksville. Ary is Ethos Winter is Coming at Cachet BN RN RATN DS JH FCAT.



Rick Sankey's "Luna" (pictured with handler Paul Lance) earned her Junior Hunter title at the Wiregrass Hunt Test in Meigs, Ga. Luna is 24k Retrievers Night Sky Glitter RN FDC DN JH.

Accolades . . .



Elizabeth Scherer added some titles to her dog's names in December and January. Orion earned his Rally Advanced B title in December during the AKC National Championship week in Orlando while Tahani earned her first RA leg on the same day. In January, her dog Kody earned a Junior Hunter title at the Treasure Coast Hunting Retriever Club hunt test in Okeechobee.

MFGRC President Ann Rowe and her Golden boy Austin earned Austin's Obedience CD title in the Obedience Club of Daytona trial in Daytona Beach in December. Austin is Jazzies Magik's Hook 'Em Horns CD RI JH WC CA.



Jan Casey and her Golden boy BT had a successful weekend in agility at the Tampa Bay German Shepherd Dog Club trial at Sonlight Ranch in Brooksville. BT earned both his NA and NAJ titles, taking two first places and one second place



Susie Rezy and her Golden boy Badger earned Badger's Barn Hunt senior title in a trial held at G2 Barn Hunt in Morriston, FL.



DAYTONA BIKE WEEK STARS - MFGRC member Ralph Orlando taking his Golden boy Smokey along with Star and Trumpet for a ride in his motorcycle sidecar during Daytona Bike Week.

Accolades . . .



Laura Topping's Golden girl Gretchen was named Outstanding Dam by the GRCA. She is GCH Lorelei's Here For The Party RN JH CD WC VC OD who is owned and handled by Laura. Her qualifying get are:
 CH Lorelei's Runnin' Down a Dream
 CH Lorelei's American Girl
 CH Lorelei Goldrox Get a Clue
 CH Lorelei's Lei One on Me



Diane and Vern Gank's Golden girl "Flo" finished her championship in Franklin, Tenn., with a five-point major while being handled by Janice Granada (pictured with Flo). Flo is Wonderland's Kiss My Grits.



Laura Wright and her Golden girl Kaylee (Snobirds's Spring Firefly) earned Kaylee's Beginner Novice Obedience title in the Obedience Club of Daytona trial in Daytona Beach in December.



Karyn Angel's Golden boy Timer earned his Novice JWW title in the Obedience Club of Daytona trial with a first-place run, also earning a first place in Novice Fast.



Joyce Swegle had a two-title day in the Obedience Club of Daytona trial in Daytona Beach in December. Her Golden boy Finn (Lyncinan Softwind I Believe VCD2 PCDX BN VER RA OFP ACT2 SCN SIN SHDN TKA) earned his Utility Dog title and her Golden boy Benjamin (Cayberry Softwind How Tweet It Is CR RI TD ACT2 TKA SHDN) earned his Obedience CD title.



Nina DePetris' Golden girl Peaches was MFGRC's Agility Dog of the Year for 2019 and she started 2020 on a high note by earning her Masters Jumpers Bronze title in the Tailwaggers Agility Trial in West Palm Beach. Peaches qualified in six of her eight runs including a QQ on the second day.

*"I'll tell you how the sun rose
 - a ribbon at a time."
 - Emily Dickinson*