

Golden Tales

MID-FLORIDA GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB

MARCH 2023



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Betty Lambert and "Charlie"

Mark Your Calendars

MFGRFC Fun Match and General Meeting – March 18, 2023 – Sorrento, FL

MFGRFC CCA and Health Clinic – May 7, 2023 – Ocala, FL

Field Training Day – April 15 – (location TBA)

General Meeting via Zoom – April 23

General Meeting via Zoom – May 10

General Meeting via Zoom – June 14

MFGRFC Summer Specialty – July 8, 2023 – Ocala, FL

General Meeting via Zoom – July 14

MRGRFC Obedience/Rally Trial – August 11-12-13, 2023 – Daytona Beach, FL

(additional events/meetings to be announced)

COVER: MBISS GHC Goldrox Take 'Em To The Train Station BISS "Rip"

In just six times in the breed ring Rip has won two specialties, 4 group placements, achieved his grand championship and is currently the #2 golden all systems. Owner Paula Black and Courtney Roxby.

Bred by Courtney Roxby. Handled exclusively by Chatham Napoli



From the President's Desk . . .

It's already springtime and our club activities for the year are well underway! We've had a very productive start to the year, with many club members earning honors and titles in various venues, including our February Hunt Test that was held in Montverde. We have a record number of members utilizing our monthly field training days to prepare and gain experience at all levels with their dogs. New board member Brian Parker, who is also the Hunt Test Chair, has graciously opened up his property to us for these monthly training dates, and it's exciting to see the results. We're one of the few golden clubs in the country that has the ability to train at this level so we encourage anyone new who is hoping to learn to come out and join us.

Another wonderful event coming up this month is our annual Fun Match at the home of former club president Ann Rowe. We will have relaxed competition in a learning environment, food, and the chance to meet and socialize with club members. Entries are open now, so sign your dog up for Obedience, Rally, Conformation, or all three! And don't forget to bring a raffle prize for the drawing. An in-person general meeting will follow, and I can't wait to see you all there.

Robin Burket

Welcome New Club Members!

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

Voted in as members in the December meeting were:

Richard and Tracy Kowalski, Orlando, FL (sponsor was Ann Rowe)

Bob and Rosemary Santoro, Vero Beach, FL (returning members) (sponsor was Jerrie Morrison)

Voted in as members in the February meeting were:

Robert and Elizabeth Rothbard, Winter Park, FL (sponsor was Ann Rowe)

Amanda Fell, Orlando, FL (sponsor was Robin Bowen)

Duane and Lori Ashe, Whigham, GA (sponsor was Destiny Martel)

Addie Lloyd, DeLand, FL (sponsor was Kristin Sipus)



Tracy and Rich Kowalski



Duane and Lori Ashe



Amanda Fell



Robert Rothbard



Addie Lloyd



Bob and Rosemary Santoro

MFGRC Confirms 2023 Officers and Board

The leadership of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club for 2023 was confirmed by vote during the club's Annual Meeting held December 17 in conjunction with the Christmas party at the home of club member Cindy Patz in Windermere, Fla. .

Confirmed were the following officers and board members, whose terms began immediately upon the vote:

Officers:

President – Robin Burket

Vice President – Christine McDaniel

Secretary – Jenny Ford

Treasurer – Robin Bowen

Board:

Kathy Cudak

Pam Ginn

Pat Kopco (Director of Communications)

Lucinda Napoli

Camille Nasca

Brian Parker

Kristin Sipus

Michele Throm

In addition to the above, club members Pat Carlile and Dalia Ruffatto will assist the 2023 officers and board in the non-voting position of assistant secretary.



"I saw it first!"

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.



MFGRC Fun Match Returns March 18

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club's Fun Match (AKC sanctioned B-Match) is back for another day of dog fun on Saturday, March 18, with all-breed obedience and rally and conformation for Goldens.

The Match will be held at the home of MFGRC past president Ann Rowe in Sorrento, Fla., with judging to begin at 8:30 a.m. Judges will be Susan Howard (obedience), Barb Page (rally) and Ellen Bartkus (conformation).

The entry premium can be downloaded from the MFGRC website (mfgrc.org).
Entries also are accepted on the day of the match.

In addition to the competition, the day will include a BBQ lunch, a raffle and a club meeting.
The address is 23840 Oak Valley Lane, Sorrento, Fla., 32776.

MFGRC Presents 2022 Club Member Awards



Club member award recipients (L-R) Andy Hall, Lloyd Kiernan Service Award; club president Robin Burket; Cynthia Rothman, Rookie of the Year; Michele Panetta, Nancy McCune Member of the Year; and Cindy Patz, Special Award of Appreciation.

The MFGRC presented its annual club member awards for 2022 at the club's Christmas party and general meeting held December 17 at the home of Cindy and Ben Patz in Windermere, Fla.

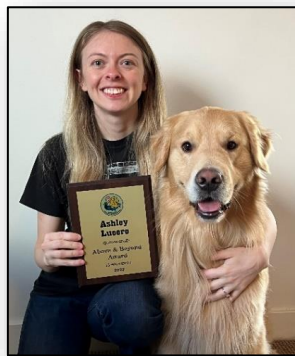
The club member awards are selected by the officers and board of the club.
The 2022 recipients were:

Rookie of the Year - Cynthia Rothman
Mover and Shaker Award - Brad Paddock
Above and Beyond Award - Ashley Lucero
Lloyd Kiernan Service Award - Andy Hall
Nancy McCune Member of the Year - Michele Panetta
Special Award of Appreciation - Cindy Patz
Special Award of Appreciation - Billy Kling

In addition, club president Robin Burket presented gifts of appreciation to outgoing officers and board members Ann Rowe, Ted Misilo and Andy Hall for their years of service to the club.



Brad Paddock
Mover and Shaker Award



Ashley Lucero
Above and Beyond Award



Billy Kling
Award of Appreciation

Meet New MFGRC Board Members for 2023

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club has three “new” board members for 2023. In this edition of Golden Tales, we’ll meet new board members Lucinda Napoli, Jenny Ford, and Brian Parker.

Lucinda Napoli

Since the day I was born there has been a Golden Retriever in our home. Elliott was our first Golden who lived until he was 17 years old and was a trusted and loving friend. We got our second Golden from Camille Nasca who suggested attending a dog show and from that first show my sister, Chatham and I were hooked.

At very young ages we began working for Greg and Jane Myers, both professional handlers in Florida. We worked and traveled with them until they retired from showing dogs in 2013. We learned a many things during that time, how to show, groom and care for golden retrievers and many other breeds. They gave me my first “show” dog “Michael.” BISS De La Vega Orange I Fabulous. He was the first dog I finished by myself, my heart dog.

I also love German Wirehaired Pointers. I own Swagger, Piper, Fowler, and Woods. That said, my heart will always be with Golden Retrievers, and I am eagerly waiting for my next one. My sister, Chatham and I now breed and show under the kennel name “Pegram.”

It’s important to me to give back to the breed and sport of dogs which I love so much. I serve as a committee member for the Golden Retriever Top 20 event held at the National every year and have my AKC judging license to judge juniors in conformation events.



Jenny Ford

I grew up in Jeffersonville, IN, attended Indiana University Southeast and graduated with a BS in Marketing and MBA in Business Administration. Career started in retail with my parents Convenience Store, moved into management at Bacons Department store, then started position as intern at KFC where I worked my way up the ladder in multiple positions from operations to finance. Currently working for Welbilt as product manager over blended beverage and carbonated beverage systems.

My love for Golden Retrievers began in 1998 with a Sierra, who was by my side for 11 years. When she passed, I could not find another female, so I found a beautiful boy puppy, name Brady with the help of a lady my parents met at the local show. I also put my name on a list for a female, Nevada who came to my family a year later and would be the mother of my first litter of puppies which created a great friendship with breeder Tricia Kesler. I had my first litter of puppies in 2015 with the guidance and support of several long time breeders, under the kennel name Ford’s Golden Range. I joined the Mid-Florida Club in 2018 after my friend Tricia moved here and my company was trying to get me to work from our corporate office in Tampa. In 2022 I had my first AKC Champion CH Captivate Gunnar’s Rocky Road @ FGR CGC TKN. I currently have 4 Goldens and love showing in the conformation ring as owner handler. My dogs are the reason I work so they can have a better life.



Meet New MFGRC Board Members for 2023

continued . . .

Brian Parker

Brian Parker, who serves the MFGRC as chair of the club's Hunt Tests, expanded his involvement in 2023 by becoming a member of the board.

Brian's interest in field sports dates back to his childhood in Osteen, Fla.

"My grandparents had orange groves, cattle and catfish ponds in Osteen," he said. "I spent a great deal of time outdoors and received my first shotgun when I was nine years old. When I was a kid the ducks, doves, quail and rabbits were plentiful. Unlike most everything else that has dwindled in numbers hogs were a plentiful nuisance then as well.

"My favorite thing is and was wing shooting and I've always enjoyed hunting with dogs."

Brian got his first experience with organized tests in the mid-1980's with the Jacksonville Retriever Club.

"I was fortunate enough to be able to help shoot for the club because the gunners were having a hard time hitting the birds," he said. "From that point I was hooked."

Brian moved to DeLand, Fla., in 2000 and met Alan and Sandy Wilcox, who introduced him to the Central Florida Hunting Retriever Club (CFHRC) and the MFGRC.

To help give back to the sport he loves, Brian started judging in 2002. He has judged AKC retriever hunt tests and field trials, UKC retriever hunt tests including the HRC Grand and he has run and judged some SRS events. In addition, he has judged the Boykin National Specialty twice as well as the Toller National.

For the CFHRC, Brian said he has been a board member, hunt test chairman, training coordinator, cook, and the newsletter editor. He took the modernization step of moving the club's newsletter to email rather than regular mail and he also started a Facebook page for the club.

Brian owns and operates Southern Retrievers, which he established in 2000 to breed and train retrievers. He trains on property located in DeLand and in Ormond Beach, Fla.

His reputation as a trainer led to a unique opportunity.



"In 2007 I was approached about training bomb dogs but had no interest," he said. "However, after several people I knew were injured, I talked to a friend in late 2010 about bomb dog training. I started training green bomb dogs - dogs that could handle and run blinds out to 300 yards.

"I then helped train the Marine dog handlers to handle the dogs," he said. "In 2012, I completed my pre-deployment work up and deployed to Afghanistan in 2013 with the dogs and Marines." Brian said that several of the bomb dogs he trained and deployed with were awarded medals in the United States Senate.

"I was invited to attend the awards ceremony and was privileged to attend with one of the Marine Dog Handlers I had deployed overseas with. His dog was a vital asset on the battlefield and after the down grade his dog became a TSA asset. It was a privilege to see both of them again."

Brian looks forward to helping MFGRC members and others from around the region have good experiences at the club's Hunt Tests. "Over the years I've been fortunate to give back to the sport that I enjoy and care deeply about," he said.

FIELD TRAINING DAYS ★ FIELD TRAINING DAYS

Join us for MFGRC

Field training days



Watch your email for more information, dates and to sign up

Getting started in field

For dogs and puppies of all ages, just getting started with field work. We will be teaching the basics needed to compete towards a junior hunter title. Introduction to live and dead birds.

Training for senior and beyond

For dogs that have their junior title (or are ready for junior)
This is for dogs and handlers wanting to go beyond junior....to senior and master. We will be focusing on the skills needed to train for blind retrieves and multiple marks.

Questions: contact Kristin 352-229-1575 mfgrcfield@gmail.com

MFGRC Announces 2022 Year-End Award Recipients

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club presented its 2022 dog and competition awards at the club's annual Christmas party on December 17 at the home of Cindy and Ben Patz in Windermere, Fla.

Dog of the Year award winners received custom car magnets from the club that were created by club member Anney Doucette of K9-Design.



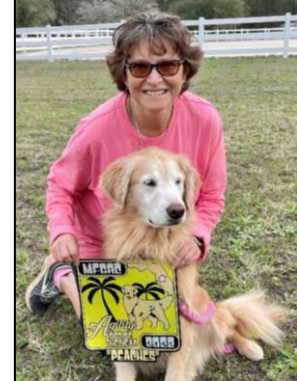
**Versatility Award: Cody
Karyn Angel
(second consecutive)**

RACH2 Topbrass Code Of Honor UDX5
PUTD OM3 BN GO VER RM5 RAE5 JH MXP
MJP2 XFP DS CGC TKP WCX



**Rally Dog of the Year: Autumn
Barbara Page
(second consecutive)**

RACH2 Mystikal Autumn Joy UD, BN
RM5 RAE4 FDC THDN CGCA
CGCU TKA ATT.



**Agility Dog of the Year: Peaches Nina
DePetrus
(third consecutive)**

MACH PACH Picabo's Sweet As A Peach
PADHF MXS MJG MXP4 MXPB MJP4
MJPB PAX OF T2B



**Show Dog of the Year: Eli
Paula Black**

MBISS GCHS Crescent GoldRox Worth
His Wait In Gold CGC TKN POA
*Also received perpetual Show Dog of the
Year trophy donated by Diane and Vern
Gank, Wonderland's Golden Retrievers*



**Obedience Dog of the Year: Boom
Sally Sherman (second
consecutive)**

OTCH5 Hi-Star Stealin' All The
Thunder UDX16 OGM BN GO RN



Field Dog of the Year: Scarlet

HR Turbo Buckeye Scarlet and Gray MH12 QA2 CCA

**Hunt Dog of the Year: Molly
Ron & Pat Rubrecht**

HRCH UH Topbrass Turbo Don't Ask Why CDX MH52 QA2
AD CCA WCX VCX HTHF OD



Fallchase Owner-Handler Award: D'Nette Musser

SPECIAL AWARDS

Fallchase Owner-Handler Award: D'Nette Musser

Tank (CH 24k Retrievers Tango Yankee BISS BOSS DN RN RATI)
Received perpetual trophy donated by Fallchase Kennel

Gold Standard Challenge: Pam Ginn (not pictured)

Rhett (GCH CH Lakewood's Rhett Butler @ Kestrel Farm South RN SH
WCX CCA)

*Perpetual trophy donated by Kristin Sipus In memory of Jagger, Sophie
& Fisher, three MFGRC Champion Master Hunters*



MFGRC Members Earn New Title Rosettes from Club in 2022

Many members of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club earned new title rosettes from the club for their successes with their Golden Retrievers during 2022. The club offers rosettes for club members who earn titles and perform volunteer work for the club during the year.

Photo - Ralph and Maria Orlando's Golden boy Stormy displays his MFGRC New Title rosette for the Obedience CD title he earned in 2022S

Member Name	Dog's Name	Titles Won in 2022
Dalia Ruffatto	Luna The Wagging Tail Wonder CD BN RA FDC CAA FCAT RATO DSX4 CGCA TKA	RA
Dalia Ruffatto	.Jazzie's Showers of Sunshine and Joy RA CA DCAT RATN CGC	RA RATN
Ellen and Charles Bartkus	RACH Shor'Line Lara of Ambersand Beach CD PCD BN RM3 RAE3 TD FDC CCA DJ CGC TKA	RAE3
Nina DePetris	MACH PACH Picabo's Sweet As A Peach MXS MJG MXP4 MXPB MJP4 MJPB PAX OF T2B PADHF	PACH MXP MXP2 MXP3 MXP4 MXPB MJP MJP2 MJP3 MJP4 MJPB PAX T2B PADHF
Nina DePetris	Knox's Pip Pip Hooray AX MXJ XF NFP	AX OAJ AXJ MXJ XF
Lisa Boudreau	CH Sandpiper's Scent From Heaven RN OAP NJP BCAT DS CGC TKI	OAP
Jan and Brad Paddock	Magik Woodford Perfect Manhattan CGC TKN RI	RN RI
Maria and Ralph Orlando	Half Moon Stormy Skyes CD	CD
Barb White	GJJCH Omni's at McGuire's Landing DSX2 DJX4 CGC TKN	DJX3 & DJX4
Tom Misilo	Cloud9 Princess Belle JH FDC CCA THDN DS DJA CGCA CGCU TKN	THDN
Jenny Ford	CH CAPTIVATE GUNNAR'S ROCKY ROAD @ FGR CGC TKN	CH
Barbara Page	RACH2 Mystikal Autumn Joy UD BN RM5 RAE4 FDC THDN CGCA CGCU TKA ATT	Rally Master 3, 4 and 5 Rally Adv Excellent (RAE) 3, 4 RACH 2 (Obedience) Utility A
Betty Lambert	Magik's Right To Romaine Silent FDC CGC TKN CCA	FDC CCA
Marilynn Guard	Paradise's Easy Dream Weaver NA NAJ,NJP NF ACT2 DSX5 DMX AS AJX2 HDN HDNA HDNX HDNX HDS WC	DSX5 DMX AJX2, HDNX WC
Ann Rowe	Magik's Two Hot To Handle CGC	CGC
Heidi Buck	HR PAD's In The Thick-Of-It UD JH MX MXB MXJ MXF T2B CGCA CGCU TKA WCX ADHF	CDX UD MX MXB MXJ MXF T2B ADHF
Cynthia Rothman	Magik Amelia Seabreeze CGC TKN RN	RN
Michele Throm	Ethos Winter Is Coming At Cachet CD BN RE JH OAP NJP BCAT ACT2 RATN DS WC CCA	RA RE NAP NJP OAP
Michele Throm	Cachet's Dare To Dream BN RE BCAT TKN CCA	BCAT BN RA RE CCA
Michele Throm	Magik's Emerald Belle Of The Ball CD BN RM JH NAP OJP DJ CGC WC CCA	RM
Leslie Anderson	CH Aubridge Dates and Quinces BN JH,WC	CH BN
Elizabeth Scherer	Gazn Journeys of Orion CD RE CGC TKN FDC RATI	Barn Hunt Instinct (RATI);
Elizabeth Scherer	Am. CH SHR U-CH. IABCA HnrCH-B/IntCH/NatCH Star Crowned Kodiak Island CD BN RE SHU JH CCA CGC TKN WCX VC RATI	RE SHU RATI IABCA HnrCH-B
Victoria Warfel	Tramin Leto CGC TKN	CGC TKN
Victoria Warfel	Mermaid's Kiss The Girl of HSD CGCA TKN	CGC CGCA TKN
Victoria Warfel	Mermaid's Under The Sea of HSD CGCA TKN VHMA	CGC CGCA TKN VHMA
Victoria Warfel	Palisman of Hope CGCA CGCU TKN VHMA	CGC CGCA CGCU TKN VHMA
Victoria Warfel	Fantasia's Sorcerer Apprentice of HSD CGC TKN VHMA	CGC TKN VHMA
Victoria Warfel	Lakehaven A New Hope CGC TKN VHMA	CGC TKN VHMA
Victoria Warfel	Mermaid's Les Poissons of HSD CGCA CGCU TKN	CGC CGCA CGCU TKN
Pam Ginn	GCH CH Lakewood's Rhett Butler @ Kestrelfarm South RN SH WCX CCA	SH
Pam Ginn	Richwood Every Move You Make @ Kestrel Farm JH WC CCA	CCA
Anne Lowry	Gryphon Flying Lion Dream JH CA BCAT DEA DMX CGCA CGCU TKI WC	JH CA BCAT DEA DMX CGCA CGCU TKI
Karli Pixley and Debbie O'Hanlon	Monark's Finding Guapo TKA DCAT RATN	TKA DCAT RATN

AKC Upland Demo Event



What: AKC Spaniel Hunting Test Presentation and Demonstration led by MFGRC Member and AKC Spaniel Hunt Test Judge MJ Douglas. We will have gunners and live chukar for the demonstration.

When: Saturday, April 15th, 2023

Time: 9:00am- noon.

Where: Southern Retrievers, 29536 CR-42 Paisley, FL 32767 (same place as training day)

Why: "The Golden Retriever originated in the Scottish Highlands in the Late 1800's and was used predominately for hunting upland game and waterfowl." (*The Hunting Style of the Golden Retriever*). Goldens are eligible to earn the Junior, Senior, and Master Upland Titles (JHU/SHU/MHU).

References:

- Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Spaniels, <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RHTSPN.pdf>
- Spaniels Hunt Test, American Kennel Club, <https://www.akc.org/sports/spaniels/hunting-tests/>
- Spaniels Hunting Test, Golden Retriever, https://images.akc.org/pdf/events/hunting_tests/spaniels/hunting_style/golden_retriever.pdf
- Spaniels Hunting Test Brochure, <https://www.akc.org/sports/spaniels/hunting-tests/brochure/>

AKC SPANIEL HUNTING TESTS (BASIC ELEMENTS)

Fieldwork Series

- **All levels:** Find, flush, and retrieve two birds. Some differences for Junior level.
- **Senior/Master:** Must retrieve to hand and must show pattern. **Master** must be **steady to wing and shot**.

"Hunt dead" (Senior/Master) Series

- Handlers don't know where it is.

Water Series

- **Senior/Master** must be **line steady** and retrieve to hand. Shot fired for all levels.
- **Master** must also **complete water blind**.





Health Clinics, CCA on Tap for May 7 in Ocala

The Mid Florida Golden Retriever Club is hosting the following events on Sunday, May 7. The events will run 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CANINE HEART & EYE CLINIC

Genetic Testing Clinic by Neogen's Paw Print Genetics
OPEN TO ALL BREEDS

GRCA Certificate of Conformation Assessment

Golden Retrievers only

Hosted by the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club

Pre-registration closes April 24, 2023

Register early. Space is limited. No walk-ins or refunds

Maggie Lamy, DVM, DACVM – Cardiology

Ralph Hamor, DVM, MS, ACVO

Fee: CAER Eye Exam MFGRC Members - \$45 Non-Members - \$50

Heart Exam – Echocardiogram MFGRC Members - \$275 Non-Members - \$300

Auscultation Exam Only MFGRC Members - \$65 Non-Members - \$75

Location: Marion Alachua Dog Training Association

6600 NW 3rd Place, Ocala, FL

The event will run 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For additional information contact Camille at mischiefgolden@gmail.com

PAW PRINT GENETICS SPECIAL EVENT DISCOUNTS:

40% off any order OR 50% off any order with a breed-specific panel.

For more information on genetic testing for your breed go to www.pawprintgenetics.com
or contact them at 509-483-5950 their customer service team is happy to assist you
with any questions or order submission.



FIELD TRAINING

Training days will continue to be held monthly, focusing on beginners just getting started and going beyond junior. Watch your email for future training days!

Come and join us...lots of fun had by all!!! All levels of handlers and dogs are welcome.



Photos from our past MFGRC field training days at Brian Parker's Persimmon farm Training Facility.



Twelve-Year-Old MFGRC Member Trinity Lonsdale Making Name in Show Ring

Trinity Lonsdale and her grandmother, Micheline Laberge, of Sarasota, Fla., became MFGRC members in April of 2022. Trinity, who turned 12 in January, is making a name for herself as a Junior Handler in conformation rings around Florida and the Southeast. In this first-person piece, Trinity and Micheline's friend, MFGRC member Libby Lyttle-Bryant, writes about the special relationship between her dog Derry and Trinity.

By Libby Lyttle-Bryant

So six months ago Derry began the journey towards his GCH, and around the same time he fell in love with a junior handler named Trinity. I'm not sure how the conversation really started to this day, but when I was asked, I was still on cloud nine from him gaining his CH at just 18 months, that the request of Trinity showing my boy in any capacity was mindboggling and downright awesome.

Until then my understanding of Trinity was this: she reminds me of me if I had gone out as a Junior handler, but with an actual skillset. So I was just honored and I obviously did whatever to let her show him for the week in question.

Well, jokes on us as to how honored I would come to be.

She handled him was at the second Sunshine Cluster. He loved it. He got to chill with his fave professional handler at night with her crew, and then go around this ring with this new mini human who had the yummiest bait, and just thought he was the bestest and most handsomest.

The last day of the shows she needed to get a picture with the judge who was still judging, so I got the opportunity to meet her amazing and loving grandma Micheline and was kind of excited to see my boy... and I look over... and see them frolicking in a corner almost playing tag like two school kids would. And he was just infatuated with this little girl, and she

was just as smitten with him. To be honest, the rest is just a beautiful blur of how this duo just continues to reach for the stars in both the Junior conformation ring AND the breed conformation ring.

This young lady means as much to my boy as I do, which is one of many reasons to adore this duo as much as I do. BUT their success as a team is proven in the numbers. In just six months of shows together, she has managed to put his first two majors on him with 17 points over 8 wins... all the while partnering with Trinity on her own journey in the junior conformation ring.

Trinity's Jr Rankings as of this writing:

- #2 Canine Chronicles - Goldens
- #8 Canine Chronicles - Sporting Group
- #1 AKC - (by breed) - Goldens
- #14 AKC - (all-breed) - National
- #1 AKC - Florida - All breeds



... continued on next page

Trinity Lonsdale continued . . .

Congratulations to Trinity and all of her AMAZING work in the ring, and for loving my boy fully outside of the ring. Congratulations to Micheline for having a rockstar of a granddaughter, and for being an amazing stepmom to my boy when he's out on the road. You really allow him all the best treatment as if he was at home. Thank you for welcoming us into your family.

Thank you to Ginny Kincer and Julie Wangelin for their crazy ideas coming together for good on this pairing. I don't think there is another 12-year-old on the planet I would trust to have Derry for weeks at a time. But the proof is in the pictures...



A Golden group pauses for a photo while training at Anney Doucette and Jeff Rushe's Rush Retriever Camp in Lecanto, Fla.

My Dog had a Stroke!

... or did he?

It could be Idiopathic Vestibular Syndrome, an “old dog disease,” common yet not well known

By Coralee Leon

Bertie, my active, happy 14-year-old golden retriever, was trotting around the deck at the local doggie pool on February 13 when his hind legs suddenly collapsed and he started shaking uncontrollably. He was dazed and unfocused, and his eyes looked strange. My first fearful thought was that he'd had a stroke. After some calming hugs and petting he was able to walk with assistance—but dizzily, in circles. A friend helped me lift him into the car.

At home, he recovered somewhat and the next morning seemed perfectly normal. But as the day progressed, it all started again. Very weak and unable to stand without help, he seemed confused, couldn't walk a straight line, and his head was awkwardly tilted to the left. His eyes were flicking rapidly back and forth. That evening, after resting for a while, he suddenly stood and vomited his supper.

Beside myself with worry, I texted our vet all I had observed. Then, while sitting with Bertie while he slept, I searched his symptoms on my phone, and finally found this:

“Idiopathic Vestibular Syndrome is a common cause of incoordination and hind-limb weakness in geriatric dogs. It comes on suddenly, and it may seem to you as if you dog has had a stroke.”

My veterinarian's reply next morning confirmed this diagnosis.

Idiopathic means the cause is unknown. *Vestibular* refers to the inner and middle ear. Any abnormality, I read, can cause sudden loss of balance and coordination, along with *ataxia* (stumbling or falling), and *nystagmus* (a flickering eye movement). Other symptoms are a tendency to walk in circles and an oddly tilted head. The disease can strike older dogs of any breed (and cats of any age).

Bertie's story of illness and recovery followed a course typical of this syndrome. For three days after our initial veterinarian visit, he needed separate support for his front, which wanted to turn left, and his rear, which would otherwise collapse. Actually he was reluctant to move at all, and seemed frightened and depressed—not a bit like the Bertie we know and love. I'd been told he'd get worse before better, and this turned out to be very true.



His lack of appetite was no surprise, but when he did start eating he had no interest in his usual favorites. Instead, his infrequent meals consisted of little jars of baby meat, into which I mashed the “seasick” medicines his vet had given him.

On the fourth day—February 17—things started getting better. When he came inside after being helped out for his morning piddle, instead of just flopping down he sat for a while. Then he stood up and tried drunkenly to make for his water bowl. I signaled him to stay and brought his water to him. Then he had some ham baby food, stood for a while, sat for a while, and finally decided to lie down and rest on his accomplishments.

It is now March 4. Bertie's progress has been steady. After several days he no longer needed rear support, but just a short leash on his harness to help him steer. Then he was balanced enough for a longer leash and more freedom. He was able to walk to the end of the block and after a couple of days all around the block. Since March 1 he's taken his normal half-hour walks, as usual telling me which way he wants to go. He is a good heeler, so if his gait is unsteady I am beside him to bump into.

Bertie still will not eat his normal meals if they are contaminated with medicines or supplements (perhaps he associates these smells with those awful feelings of vertigo and nausea), so I have to hide these in baby food meats, liverwurst, ham slices, and other things that will camouflage their odor. He is not always steady on his feet, and his head still tilts slightly to the left. We're told these may take a while to disappear.

We see his vet for ongoing treatment (now just chiropractic adjustments and homeopathy). He's much brighter and happier again. His tail wags, he's playing his daily hide-it-find-it games, and yesterday went swimming again—but, tellingly, this title-winning dock-diving dog did not offer to dive.

Bertie's message to owners of senior dogs is this: If you think your dog is having a stroke, consider the possibility that it could be Idiopathic Vestibular Syndrome instead. This disease may be frightening, and difficult at first, but it's temporary, and Bertie's vet says that, with your good nursing care, your dog will almost certainly get better over time. ■

VOLUNTEERING . . .

Opportunities to Volunteer are Upcoming

MFGRC members have many opportunities during the year to volunteer as a worker at club activities. Members who perform volunteer work at events are eligible for year-end awards including new title rosettes and Dog of the Year awards. Some opportunities coming up:

CCA/Health Clinics

The MFGRC will be holding a CCA as well as health clinics on Sunday, May 7, at the MADTA building in Ocala, Fla. Volunteers are needed to help operate the health clinics and to assist with the CCA. Interested members should contact Camille Nasca at mischiefgoldens@gmail.com.

Obedience/Rally Trial

A three-day Obedience/Rally Trial will be held Aug. 11-12-13 in Daytona Beach, Fla. Volunteers are needed to work as ring stewards, especially on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 12-13, when there will be two Obedience Trials held each day. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact event chair Andy Hall at andyhall58@hotmail.com.



Rhett and Kessie enjoying a beautiful evening on the property of MFGRC board member Pam Ginn in Ocala

New AKC FIT Dog Titleholder



Jan Paddock and her Golden boy "Woody" just finished their bronze (Novice) AKC FIT Dog title. Woody will now be going into FIT Dog Level 2 training to work on his FIT Dog silver (Intermediate) title. Good luck Woody and congratulations!

Beginning January 2023 dogs are able to officially earn AKC FIT Dog Titles. See the AKC website for additional information and specifics.



ACCOLADES

From Elizabeth Scherer . . .

My Kody and I earned his AKC Senior Hunter Upland (SHU) title at the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America's hunt test in November 2022. His full name is:

Am. CH SHR U-CH. IABCA HnrCH-B/IntCH/NatCH Star Crowned Kodiak Island CD BN RE SHU JH CCA CGC TKN WCX VC RATI



Susan Howard's highly-decorated Golden boy Winston (right) finished his Master Hunter title in the Treasure Coast Retriever Club's Hunt tests in Okeechobee, also making him eligible for the Golden Retriever Club of America's VCX (Versatility Certificate Excellent) award. Susan's younger Golden boy Flyte (Left) finished his Senior Hunter title in the MFGRC Hunt Test held in February. Both are 100 percent owner-handled and trained.



In their first hunting retriever event ever, Marilyn Guard and her Golden girl Mystic earned a WC in the Florida Gulf Coast Golden Retriever Club's WC/WCX held in Paisley, Fla.



Jeff Rushe and Jurnie had quite a run over a one-month period – she earned two stars (**) in a field trial, HRCH and her then her AKC Master Hunter title.

Jeff and Jurnie are now moving to training for field trials. Jurnie is bred and co-owned by MFGRC member Ron Rubrecht.



Leslie Anderson's Golden boy Quince finished his Senior Hunter title in the Treasure Coast Retriever Club's Hunt Test in Okeechobee. In the Obedience ring, Quince finished his CD in one weekend in the MADTA trial in Ocala.



Anne Lowry's Golden boy Gryphon finished his Senior Hunter title in the MFGRC Hunt Test in February.



Libby Lyttle-Bryant's Golden girl Trinket finished her Rally Novice title in Tallahassee in three consecutive trials. Trinket was handled by Gil Martel (pictured).

MORE ACCOLADES . . .



Anney Doucette and young Golden girl Jamie (left) went four-for-four and finished her Junior Hunter title in the Jacksonville Retriever Club hunt test. In addition, her decorated Golden boy Brix (right) finished his HRCH to wrap up his Hunt Test career.



On the road far from home, Caroline Kendrick's Golden boy Dino finished his championship with a five-point major, going WD and BOW at a show in Maryland. Dino is pictured with handler Kristin Lyons.



MFGRC board member Michele Throm and her Golden girl Mia finished Mia's Rally Excellent title in the AKC National Championship pre-shows in Orlando.



Karyn Angel's Golden boy Cody finished his Senior Hunter title in the MFGRC Hunt Test held in February. In December, competing against dogs from all over the nation, Cody finished sixth in Utility (second among Preferred dogs) in the AKC Obedience Classic in Orlando.



Connie Adams and her Golden boy Luke earned all three needed legs to finish his Obedience Beginner Novice title in the MADTA trial in Ocala.



Elysse Gorney and Cind Patz with their new junior hunter's Jeffery and Sydney.



Betty Lambert's 9 month old Golden boy Charlie recently earned his NADD (North America Diving Dogs) Dock Junior title at the Diving Dog Trial put on by Courteous Canine Diving Dogs in Lutz, FL.



Chris Armanini's Golden boy Mr Rebel earned his AKC Farm Dog title.

MORE ACCOLADES . . .



Destiny and Gil Martel's Golden's Glow, Carlos and Bean have been performing strongly in the Rally ring with Gil doing the training and handling. Carlos finished his RAE3 and RM3 titles in Tallahassee over three days of showing that included six QQQ's and three perfect scores of 100. Glow finished her Rally Novice title and Bean finished her Rally Advanced title.



Kristin Sipus's Golden girl "Cuvee" received her Senior Hunter Title passing 5 out of 5 tests.



Sally Sherman and her Golden boy **Flare** took first place in the Utility class in the AKC Obedience Classic held in December at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando.

Flare (Hi-Star Hot Stuff UDX2 OM2 BN RE) accumulated 575.5 points, well ahead of the runner-up total of 547.0.



Sally's other Golden **Boom** (Flare's mother) was the MFGRC Obedience Dog of the Year for 2021 and 2022 - Boom finished 19th in the Obedience Masters class.