

VOL. 16 ISSUE 4 • MARCH 2026

GOLDEN TALES

The Official Newsletter of The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club



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From the President's Desk

March 2026

It's springtime in central Florida, and that means the GRCA Eastern Regional hosted by MFGRC is just around the corner! Many of our club members have been working tirelessly to put on a great show, and it's going to be a wonderful event. Whether your interest is conformation, obedience, field, or all of the above, there will be something for everyone. Entries are now open, so make sure to sign up for any and all venues you're planning to participate in. And don't forget to order your merchandise so you can represent the club and the event all year long!

In other news, the MFGRC is working on some exciting seminars and fun days for our members, so stay tuned for that as well. Check your email and the club website for more detailed information about all of the upcoming events, and I hope to see you there!

*Best,
Robin Burket*





Mark your Calendars

2026 GRCA Eastern Regional Specialty— *GOLDEN DAZE*

- **Wednesday April 15** - *Working Certificate/Working Certificate Excellent*
- **Thursday April 16** - *Certificate of Conformation Assessment, Obedience, Rally*
- **Friday April 17** - *Independent Specialty hosted by MFGRC*
- **Saturday April 18** - *GRCA Eastern Regional Specialty*
- **Sunday April 19** - *Independent Specialty hosted by MFGRC*

Mid Florida Golden Retriever Club Health Clinic - **Saturday May 2**

Welcome New Club Members!

We're thrilled to have you join our club! Whether you're here for companionship, competition, or simply to connect with others who share your passion for these wonderful dogs, you've found the right place. Our club is dedicated to promoting the health, happiness, and versatility of Golden Retrievers through education, events, and responsible ownership. We offer a variety of activities—from obedience and field training to social events and breed education—so there's something for everyone. We encourage you to get involved, ask questions, and most importantly, have fun. Our members are always happy to help, and we can't wait to get to know you and your Golden better.

New Members

- George Amenabar
- Donna Mack Crowell
- Kathleen Fanning
- Karen George
- Judy Harris
- Paulette Keller
- Betsy Strange
- Bridget Barket
- Joyce Careli
- Ann Moye
- Alison Silvester
- Betsy Reiney
- Ginger Rezy





Mid Florida Golden Retriever Club Fun Match— Rally, Obedience, and Confirmation

March 2026

On March 14, 2026 the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club gathered for a Fun Match at the beautiful home of our past president, Ann Rowe—and what a fantastic day it was!

Dogs (and their humans!) came together to compete and enjoy conformation, obedience, and rally in a relaxed, supportive environment. Whether you were brushing up on skills or trying something new, the Fun Match offered a great opportunity to learn, bond, and celebrate our amazing dogs.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and cheered each other on—it's events like these that strengthen our community and remind us why we love being part of the MFGRC.

We're looking forward to more opportunities to train and have fun together—stay tuned for the next one!





Upcoming Field Training 2026

Ready to get your Golden out in the field? Whether you're new to field work or preparing for your next test, our Field Training Day is the perfect chance to practice, learn, and have fun with your dog!

Location: Brian Parker's Property — 29536 CR 42 Paisley, FL 32767 and Double R Dog Ranch in Dunnellon, FL (land only)

Date: Once a Month (each location)

Time: 8:30am

Details:

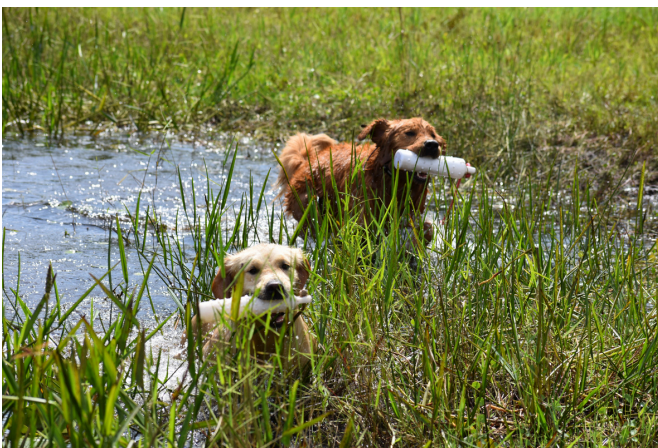
1. How many dogs are you bringing?
2. What level are they in their training?
3. Anything specific you would like help with?
4. Are you willing to run a set up or drill?

We'll be working on retrieving skills, water marks, land marks, and more, with guidance available for all experience levels. Bring your enthusiasm, your dog, and any training gear you use—we'll provide birds and setup support.

All Golden Retrievers (and handlers!) are welcome—come out and enjoy a great day of training and camaraderie.

Contact:

If you plan to come please email mfgrcfield@gmail.com so we can plan our set-ups in advance





Upcoming GRCA Eastern Regional Specialty — Golden Daze

April 2026

Wednesday April 15 - Working Certificate/Working Certificate Excellent

- Judges: Alan Wilcox, Kelli Fletcher-Riggs, Randall Gerbino, Macy Swift

Thursday April 16 - Certificate of Conformation Assessment

- Evaluators: Mustapha El Khorchi, Kathi Leonhardt, and Patricia Flanagan

Thursday April 16 - Obedience/Rally Trials

- Judge: Karen Schroeder

Friday April 17 - Independent Specialty hosted by MFGRC

- Judge: Ms. Brit Jung - Junior Showmanship, Regular Classes, Intersex
- Judge: Mary Cowen McElroy - Puppy, Veteran, Gun Dog Sweeps

Saturday April 18 - GRCA Eastern Regional Specialty

- Judge: Berna H. Welch - Regular Classes, Intersex
- Judge: Chatham Napoli - Junior Showmanship
- Judge: Cindy Williamson - Puppy, Veteran, Gun Dog Sweeps

Sunday April 19 - Independent Specialty hosted by MFGRC

- Judge: Barbara Madrigrano - Regular Classes, Intersex
- Judge: Megan Laudermilk - Junior Showmanship
- Judge: Bryana Pierce - Puppy, Veteran, Gun Dog Sweeps

Greater Ocala Dog Show Grounds

The Greater Ocala Dog Club (GODC) was established in 1970. GODC owns 40 lush acres in the heart of horse country in Marion County. Our facility includes three large pole barns with concrete floors, a meeting building with ceiling fans, and large open areas for motorhome parking. Major airports close to Ocala - Orlando & Tampa.

WC/WCX Grounds

Persimmon Hollow Farms - Paisley Florida. Persimmon Hollow Farms is a privately owned property just outside of Deland, FL. It is 260 acres with 16 ponds. The property is approximately 1.5 hrs. from the Ocala Dog Show Grounds.

Obedience/Rally Trial Grounds

Marion Alachua Dog Training Association Facility - Ocala Florida.





ORDER NOW

GOLDEN DAZE



**2026 GRCA
EASTERN REGIONAL**

**GRAB YOUR LOGO
MERCHANDISE!**



[HTTPS://MFGRC.PRINTIFY.ME](https://mfgrc.printify.me)



Premium List

(UNBENCHED – INDOORS/OUTDOORS)

(For Golden Retrievers Only)

The Golden Daze Specialties in Central Florida

*Working Certificate/Working Certificate Excellent
Regional Specialty - Golden Retriever Club of America with
Sweepstakes, Obedience, & Rally
Certificate of Conformation Assessment
Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club -
Two Independent Specialty Shows with Sweepstakes*



Greater Ocala Dog Show Grounds

10205 NW Gainesville Rd. Ocala, FL34482

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, Paisley, Florida

GRCA Working Certificate / Working Certificate Excellent

Thursday, April 16, 2026, Eastern Regional Specialty

Obedience • Event # 2024077422 Limited to 8 hours combined

Rally • Event # 2024077403 Limited to 8 hours combined

GRCA Certificate of Conformation Assessment



Golden Retriever BBQ

Join us for a BBQ after the Eastern Regional Conformation Show ends!
Hosted by Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club

BBQ COOKOUT!
at the Ocala Dog Show Grounds
Saturday • April 18 • 30 minutes after judging ends

Chef Kasey Brooks will prepare with:

- Pulled Pork
- Southern Greens
- Chicken Thighs
- Dessert

\$15 includes 1 complimentary glass of wine, soda or water

Name: _____
Email: _____ Cell: _____
Beverage (check one): Wine: Red White Water
Attending: _____ Amount \$: _____

*Make checks payable to MFGRC and mail with form to
Dr. Pamela Ginn; 9680 NW 80th Ave, Ocala FL 34482
or email form to mischiefgolden@gmail.com*



Join Us!
GRCA Eastern Regional
WC AND WCX
April 15, 2026 - Paisley, Florida
Entries close April 1st

Persimmon Hollow Farm
29536 County Rd. 42, Paisley, FL 32767

Goldens Only



GOLDEN DAZE

Support
the 2026
Golden Daze
Specialties
hosted by
MidFL Golden
Retriever Club

Featured Raffle
Item

A beautiful
handcrafted stained
glass Golden Retriever created
by Sharon
Tolliver Groves



RAFFLE TICKETS
\$5 per ticket

Zelle
®
Send payment to:

mfgRCTreasurer112011@gmail.com



Please include in the memo:
Name + "Stained Glass Raffle"



Mid Florida Golden Retriever Club — Health Clinic May 2026

It is that time of year for the annual Mid Florida Golden Retriever Club Health Clinic, Saturday, May 2, 2026. This year we have a couple of changes to the administration of the clinic. Ann Moye is a former member of the MFGRC and has recently renewed her membership. She will be handling the clinic this year. In addition to being present at the clinic, she will be handling all the paperwork. All correspondence should be directed to her at ftnewfies1@aol.com.

Be on the look out for OFA discount code for exam results that are submitted online when it is issued.

If you are paying via Zelle (mfgRCTreasurer112011@gmail.com) please indicate what you are paying for ie, 1 eye exam, 1 auscultation... You will need to either email the forms to Ann Moye at ftnewfies1@aol.com or physically mail the forms & check to her at:

Ann Moye
3610 Willow Lake Court
St. Cloud, FL 34769

Make checks payable to Mid Florida Golden Retriever Club. Please do not make checks payable to her.

Please feel free to contact Ann with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your participation and we look forward to seeing you again this year.





KEEP PETS ALIVE

For Dog and Cat Owners

1. Start Searching Immediately • Search neighborhood, usual walking routes, parks, and places your dog loves • Bring leash, treats, and favorite toy
2. Alert Neighbors and Local Contacts • Tell neighbors, delivery drivers, mail carriers, kids • Ask them to keep an eye out and call you if they see your dog
3. Make & Post Lost Dog Flyers • Include: • Clear photo • Dog's name, breed, and description • Last known location & time • Your phone number(s) • Post at: • Street corners, parks, local businesses, vet offices, shelters
4. Post on Social Media & Lost Pet Platforms • Facebook (local lost/found pet groups) • Nextdoor • Craigslist (Lost & Found) • PawBoost, Petco Love Lost, Petfinder
5. Call Local Shelters, Vets & Animal Control • Provide them your flyer • Ask them to scan for a microchip if your dog is found • Visit shelters in person if possible and check daily
6. Update Microchip and Tag Info • Call your dog's microchip company and report them lost • Confirm your contact info is current • Make sure your phone voicemail is set up and not full
7. Leave Familiar Scents Outside • Put out your dog's bed, blanket, crate, or something with your scent • Dogs may return on their own if they smell home
8. Maintain Calm for Your Cat and Other Pets • Keep feeding/watering schedules normal • Minimize stress—your other pets need your calm presence too
9. Don't Chase If You Spot Your Dog • Use calm voice • Sit or kneel, avoid eye contact, offer treats • Let them come to you
10. Keep Hope Alive and Stay Persistent • Continue checking shelters and posting updates • Dogs have been found weeks or even months later • Once your dog is found remove all flyers and postings.

Thank your new community and stay connected.

Email Keep Pets Alive – Central FL if you have Qs or suggestions

info@keeppetsalive.org



Featured Sport — Conformation

If you've ever watched a dog show and wondered what "conformation" really means, you're not alone. While it may look like dogs simply walking around a ring, conformation is actually a sport designed to evaluate how well a dog matches the official breed standard—the blueprint describing the ideal structure, movement, and temperament of each breed. For Golden Retrievers, conformation highlights the qualities that make them the versatile, beautiful, and functional dogs we love.

What is Conformation?

Conformation (often called "the breed ring") is a competition where judges evaluate dogs based on how closely they match the standard set by the American Kennel Club (AKC) and the Golden Retriever Club of America. These standards were developed to preserve the breed's purpose as a sporting dog capable of working in the field while maintaining the classic Golden Retriever look and temperament.

Judges evaluate several key areas including:

- Structure and balance – Proper proportions and sound construction
- Movement – Efficient, smooth gait that reflects correct structure
- Coat and condition – Healthy coat and overall physical fitness
- Temperament – The friendly, confident demeanor Golden Retrievers are known for
- Presentation – How well the dog is trained to stand and move for evaluation

Why Try Conformation With Your Golden?

Many people assume conformation is only for professional handlers or breeders, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Many owners get started simply because they want to learn more about their dog and have fun with their Golden. Conformation is also a very welcoming entry point into dog sports. Many clubs, including ours, offer fun matches, handling classes, and mentoring to help beginners learn the basics!

It's About Preservation and Partnership

At its heart, conformation is about preserving the Golden Retriever as a sound, functional sporting breed. Every time you step into the ring, you are helping celebrate the history and purpose of this wonderful breed.

