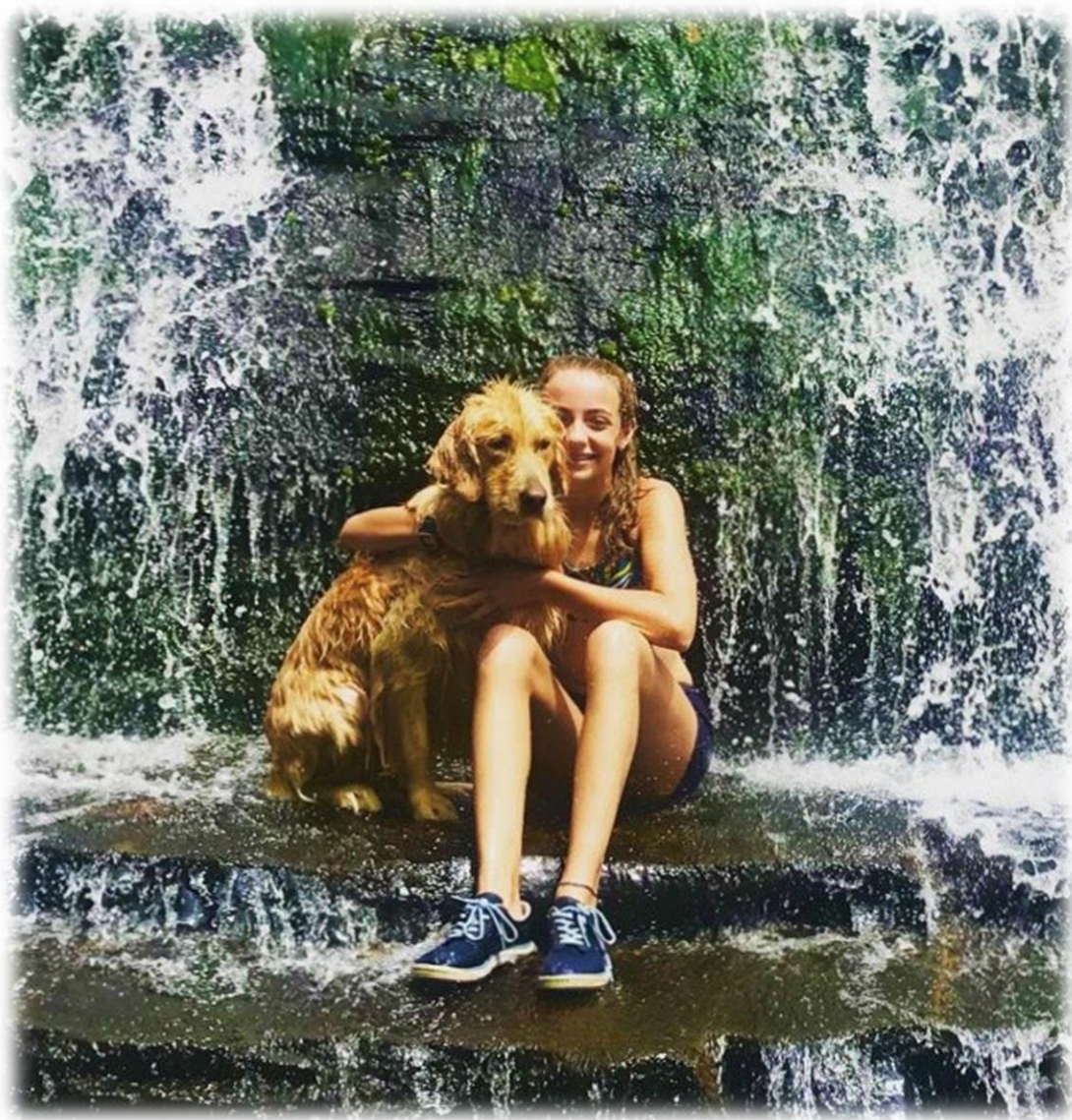


Golden Tales

SEPTEMBER 2020



MID-FLORIDA GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB



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Cover Story . . .

MFGRC member Lindsey Rodriguez shot this striking image of relatives Dash (left, Rhythm's Spice Up the Night) and Lindsey's girl Harper (Rhythm's Making Angels Sing BISS) enjoying the sunset in Shore Acres in St. Petersburg.

President's Message . . .



Since the last newsletter, not much has changed. It's still hot (really hot); we're up to "P" in the alphabet for tropical storm names; there is still a lot of civil unrest and the pandemic has not and is not seemingly going away.

Maybe it is time to reflect a bit on the past – how we use to go to a dog show, or a party, or get on an airplane; hang out with friends, go to the store or perhaps window shop – all the things we had taken for granted. I think we forget about all those times until one can't do them anymore. So let's be thankful that we have family and good friends, we are staying healthy, that we have good health care providers to take care of us if we do happen to get sick, that a vaccine will be on the horizon, that one day this will just be a memory, and that life is still good.

I believe our dogs will view 2020 as a great year! Their folks are home during the day to give Fido extra attention, extra walks, more treats, and endless scratches behind the ear. Life is really good now – if you are one of our dogs!

Ann Rowe

Photo by Courtney Roxby

Breaking News . . .

Memberships will carry over into 2021

Early Christmas Gift for MFGRC Members – Renewals Not Required for 2021

Members of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club are receiving an early Christmas gift from the club: an automatic renewal of their membership for 2021 at no charge.

Because the club has not been able to hold its normal robust schedule of activities this year due to the pandemic, the club's board of directors decided it wouldn't be fair to charge members to renew for 2021.

Members don't have to do anything – the club's membership department will take care of everything.

Here's to a much more active 2021!



Mark Your Calendars

MFGRC General Meeting – September 23, 7:30 p.m. ET via Zoom

MFGRC Fall Agility Trial – October 9-10-11 – Weirsdale, FL

MFGRC Specialty – December 11 – Orlando, FL

MFGRC Christmas Party and Annual Meeting – December 12 – Sorrento, FL
(additional general meetings to be announced)

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 Waives Work Requirements for 2020 New Title Rosettes



With the pandemic severely limiting dog activity this year, the MFGRC board made the decision at its August meeting to waive the normal requirements for members to earn new title rosettes for their dogs this year.

Since the club has had to cancel many of its events this year, there have not been enough opportunities for members to be able to work at events to satisfy the volunteer requirement for receiving a new title rosette.

Any member whose Golden Retriever earns any kind of new title in 2020 is therefore eligible to apply for a new title rosette. The deadline is December 31 and the rosettes will be ordered and available early in 2021.

Those applying for new title rosettes for 2020 should email MFGRC vice president Robin Burket at robin.c.lemieux@gmail.com.

Also, with the pandemic pausing many of the club's events, some members have not been able to get the new title rosettes they earned from the club for 2019. Any member who hasn't picked up or received their rosette is asked to contact Robin Burket to arrange for delivery by mail.

(Photo: Ralph Orlando with "Smokey" and his 2019 Title Rosette)

MFGRC Will Not Present Club Awards for 2020

Because it has not been possible to have a full year of competition this year due to the pandemic, the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club will not present its annual dog and member awards for 2020. The decision by the club's board of directors was reached at its August meeting.

The dog awards include awards such as Agility Dog of the Year, Rally Dog of the Year, Show Dog of the Year, etc., as well as the club's Fallchase Owner-Handler Award and the Gold Standard Challenge.

The club also will not present its annual member awards (Nancy McCune Member of the Year, Mover and Shaker Award, Above and Beyond Award and Lloyd Kiernan Service Award).

The club will present its new title rosettes to members whose dogs earn new titles during calendar year 2020. (see related article above)

MFGRC Cancels “Summer Specialty” in Tampa

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club canceled its “Summer Specialty” event that was to have been held on September 25 as part of the Sunshine State Cluster in Tampa.

The Cluster itself, which is scheduled for September 23-27 at the Florida State Fairgrounds, has **not** been canceled. The Cluster was originally scheduled for June but was rescheduled to September due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MFGRC board made the decision to withdraw from the Cluster due to ongoing concerns about the pandemic in Florida.

“We greatly appreciate Bill Price and the St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association for working with us on our decision,” said Robin Burket, MFGRC vice president and chair of the Summer Specialty. “We wish everyone involved a very safe and successful Cluster.”

Raffle Tickets to Benefit 2021 GRCA National



Our friends at the Florida Gulf Coast Golden Retriever Club are conducting a unique raffle to benefit the MFGRC's hosting of the 2021 GRCA National. The raffle prize is the back cover of the GRCA's Golden Retriever News magazine and the winner can put ANY Golden Retriever in that high-visibility location – it does NOT have to be a conformation dog. It can be an agility dog, field dog, obedience dog or even a family pet.

The FGCGRC will be sending raffle tickets around the country to be sold and is asking for help from MFGRC members in selling tickets. To save postage costs, the club would prefer to deliver the tickets in person if possible.

If any MFGRC members are going to be at the Tampa Cluster at the end of September and want to get tickets to bring back home with them, FGCGRC president Sheree Melhuish will bring the tickets to them there. Anyone interested is asked to contact her at saffiregoldens@aol.com

Welcome New Club Members!

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club welcomed new members to its ranks during the “virtual” general meeting held on July 23.

The new members were:

Tina Brooke, Osteen, FL (sponsored by Pat Kopco)
Angela Barber, Palm Harbour, FL (sponsored by Karen Brady)
Linda Wilken, Terra Ceia, FL (sponsored by Lisa Boudreau)
Gretchen Carlson, Clermont, FL (sponsored by Michele Throm)



Tina Brooke



Angela Barber



Linda Wilken



Gretchen Carlson

Winter Hunt Test Canceled

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club canceled its annual Winter Hunt Test that was to have been held Nov. 13-15 at Golden Oaks Ranch in Montverde, FL. The cancellation was due to ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic including availability of the number of judges needed to conduct the test and the unavailability of volunteer and college workers to adequately and safely run the test.

The MFGRC Spring Hunt Test in Montverde is scheduled for February 13-14.

Volunteering . . .

Opportunities to Volunteer are Upcoming

The club will be holding a three-day agility trial October 9-10-11 at Grand Oaks Resort in Weirsdale, FL. (near The Villages) and more volunteers are going to be needed than ever to help conduct the trial. Due to restrictions in place, the club will not have use of the students who have been so helpful at the trial in past years. Help will be needed on setup day (Thursday, Oct. 8, at 1 p.m.), during all three days of competition and help will be needed for packing up the club's equipment on Sunday afternoon when the trial is finished. Safety precautions will be in place for the trial. Anyone who can help is asked to contact volunteer coordinator Pat Carlile at pat_golden_boy@yahoo.com

Blast From the Past . . .

This image, submitted by member Julie Wangelin, dates back to 2003 and the MFGRC agility trial held in Winter Park, FL. Pictured from left to right are Ginny and John Courtney, Rosa and John Blair, Susan Fullenwider, Camille Nasca, Dave and Liz Waldschmidt, Tom and Joanne Hell, Julie Wangelin and Robin Scott. From raffle tickets sold at the event, the club made a sizable donation to Breast Cancer research in the name of Joanna Bedford.



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.

SPOTLIGHT

Golden Young Star

At only 10 months of age, Cheri Browne's Golden boy **Rio** earned his Started Hunting Retriever title at the Music City Hunting Retriever Club test in Tennessee. **Rio** went 4 for 4 in back-to-back weekend tests. He is owner bred, owner handled and owner trained,



For Obedience Competitors . . .

Victory Hulett Seminar to Benefit DOCOF

Victory Hulett will hold a seminar in February with all proceeds going to benefit DOCOF. (MFGRC is a member of DOCOF, which is Dog Obedience Clubs of Florida). This seminar will probably fill up quickly so members interested should sign up as soon as possible. Full Details in the flyer below:



DOCOF is Proud to Present: **Victory Hulett**

Date: March 27 & 28, 2021

Time: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Location: Imperial Polk Obedience Club
3611 Century Blvd.
Lakeland, FL 33811

Cost: 2 Day Working Spot: \$225.00
2 Day Audit Spot: \$75.00
1 Day Audit spot: \$50.00

100% of proceeds will be going to support DOCOF

Twenty (20) Working Spots and 20 Audit Spots are available.
No refunds after **Feb. 15, 2021**. There will be a waiting list available in case of cancellations.

Lunch: Due to the uncertain status of COVID19, lunch will not be provided.

Seminar Outline: Victory's plan is to focus on ring attention, scent articles, recall issues, dumbbell and go outs. Victory always brings something new to her seminars. She has new games and methods to share.

Please fill out the form below and Mail to: Ron Seeley, 167 NE Jardain Rd. Port St. Lucie, FL 34983-1726.

Any questions contact: Ron Seeley at (772) 971- 4151, rseeley1337@gmail.com

(Please cut along dotted line)

Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Street Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Dog's Call Name: _____ **Level dog is working:** Novice Open Utility
(Please circle)

___ 2 Day Working: \$ 225 ___ 2 Day Audit: \$ 75 ___ 1 Day Audit: \$ 50

Please list a problem you want to work on. _____

Please make checks payable to DOCOF

Victory Hulett Seminar 3/27-28/2021
6/29/2020

Victory Hulett
Teach Through Games

Accolades



Members Charles and Barb White's Golden boy Mac (GJJCH Omni's at McGuire's Landing DSX DJA DJX CGC TKN received his Junior Excellent Title in dock diving at Ocala Dog Ranch. Mac already had his Senior Excellent but needed one more Junior jump to get his Junior Excellent. Mac also graced the cover of *Golden Retriever News*, the official magazine of the Golden Retriever Club of America.

Maria Randell's Jo earned her Dock Diving Senior title in her first competition at Ocala Dog Ranch. She averaged 17'9" and has a personal best of 19'3"



Mel Lucas' Golden boy Godric earned his CCF1 and CCF2 titles through the DMWYD (Do More With Your Dog) canine conditioning fitness program.

Accolades . . .



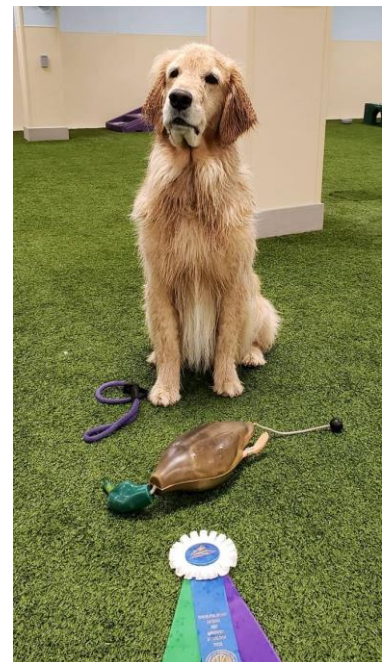
Ditto, owned by Julie Wangelin and the reigning Show Dog of the Year in the MFGRC, has been on the road this summer and has earned multiple BOB, BOS and Select awards in the conformation ring with handler Ginny Kincer (pictured). Ditto also got to play in the water and earned his Dock Senior Excellent 2 title and an invite to the NADD regional championship being held at 24k Retrievers in Cairo, Ga.



Julie Wangelin's **Dharma** (Questan's Path to EnlightenMINT DS, AJ, RN, RATN, TKN, CGC) has had a successful year in 2020 – she finished her Conformation title with a four-point major at the Mile High Sporting Dog Fanciers show in Greeley, Col., her third major in four weeks. Along the way, she also earned her Air Retriever Junior title, all while being handled by Ginny Kincer (pictured).



MFGRC treasurer Dee Thibodeaux has been busy earning titles for her Golden girls over the past few months via the AKC's new titling procedures put in place during the pandemic:
 Deauxquest KISS On The Lips (Smooch) earned her CGC. CHCA. TKN and Rally Novice titles. (photo)
 Deauxquest Hurri Cane (Hurri) earned her CGC. CGCA. TKN and Rally Novice titles.
 Deauxquest Oh Solo Mia (Solo) earned her CGC, CGCA and Rally Novice titles.
 Deauxquest On The Podium (Medal) earned her CGC, CGCA and Rally Novice titles.



Tom Misilo's Golden girl Belle earned her Dock Junior Advanced title at Paws 4 Fun in Lincoln, NE.

More Accolades . . .



Virginia McQueeney's London (Monark's English Salt Water Taffy) earned trick dog and dock diving junior titles while trained and handled by Destiny Martel and Marie Blevins.



Ellen Bartkus' Golden girl Lara, the club's Rally Dog of the Year for 2019, has qualified for and is entered in the AKC Rally National in Rally Advanced. The event was originally scheduled for June in Ohio but will now be held Dec 11 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando.

High In Trial!



MJ Douglas' Golden boy Tag (Firemarks Looks Like Fun N Games CCA DM CDX) earned his CDX title in the Orlando Dog Training Club's Obedience Trial. Tag also was **High in Trial**, MJ's first such honor.



Destiny Martel's Golden girl Glow (24k Retrievers You Glow Girl DN DJ RATN) earned her Barn Hunt Novice title in a trial held at G2 Barn Hunt in Morriston, Fla. Glow, who had earned her Dock Diving Junior title the previous weekend.



Elizabeth Scherer's Kody (Star Crowned Kodiak Island) poses with the accolades he received for earning the Faye Simpson Award of Merit at the MFGRC's WC/WCX last year. Jeff Rushe's Golden Turbo Joker's Wild Party Girl received the Faye Simpson Award for the other day of the event.

More Accolades . . .

New OTCH! High In Trial!



Susan Howard and her Golden boy Winston earned Winston's **OTCH** (Obedience Trial Champion) title on Labor Day in St. Petersburg. Winston won Open B and went **High in Trial** in the morning and in the afternoon he won Utility B for the remaining 6 points needed for his OTCH.



Ann Rowe and her Golden girl Breeze earned Breeze's CGC and Novice Trick Dog Title in Eustis, FL.



Ann Rowe and her Golden boy Player and Golden girl Lexus earned their CGC and Novice Trick Dog Titles in Eustis, FL.

News and Notes . . .

Companion events waives “two-judge” rule



At its July meeting, the **AKC Board of Directors** approved the waiver of the “two-judge” requirement to earn titles in agility, obedience and rally for the remainder of 2020. This change provides exhibitors more opportunities to earn their titles during this time where events are scarcer and in which judges are unable to easily travel across the country. These changes are retroactive to July 1.

News and Notes . . .

The Learning Cluster –

All-breed show focuses on best practices and safety

From AKC.org

Guthrie, OK - The first all-breed dog shows in the U.S. since the onset of the COVID pandemic were held by the Bartlesville Kennel Club, Claremore Kennel Club of OK, and Mid-Del Tinker Kennel Club at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie June 27-30. Appropriately, the weekend was called the Learning Cluster. Many of AKC's "Best Practices" were applied. It was indeed a learning experience as exhibitors had to rethink their traditional activities.

With a focus on meeting facility, local and state regulations and applying event specific best practices, successful shows can be held with high priority given to safety. The rules must be clearly explained in the premium and through signage at the event. Judges, exhibitors, and organizers must be aware of the expectations and not deviate. Working together to enhance the safety for all resulted in an enjoyable event.



The first all-breed dog shows in the United States since the start of the COVID pandemic were held by the Bartlesville Kennel Club, Claremore Kennel Club of Oklahoma and the Mid-Del Tinker Kennel Club at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, OK on June 27 - 30. Appropriately the event was called the Learning Cluster. Many of AKC's Best Practices were applied. It was indeed a learning experience as exhibitors had to re-think their traditional activities. Bottom line – with everyone paying attention and following the rules, this can work!!

With a focus on meeting facility, Local and State regulations and applying event specific best practices, successful shows can be held with high priority given to safety. The rules must be clearly explained in the premium and through signage at the event. Judges, exhibitors and organizers must be aware of the expectations and not deviate. Working together to enhance the safety for all resulted in an enjoyable event.

The following taken in order that we may all learn from the experience of the Learning Cluster.

Maintain social distancing - 6-foot measuring stick is a valuable reminder.

General Signage

Signage was used throughout the event to remind exhibitors what was expected to maintain a safe environment.

Sign stacks on the floor to remind exhibitors what is expected. These towers were placed at the main entrances and throughout the floor.

Masks were required in the building.

Social distancing reminder.

No ring-side seating was allowed.

Grooming Area

Grooming was arranged in rows with back-to-back crating, a 6 foot aisle separated the next grooming row. No force air dryers were allowed in the grooming area on the show floor.

The Learning Cluster – continued

Ring Set-up

Separate exit and entrance gates for all rings. In the photo below, the dog finishing is leaving by the judges table while the next dog is ready to come in the ring at the other end by the self-serve armband table.



Floor markings provided social distancing reference markers. Markers include white arrows to show the flow of the ring. Next is a white line to indicate six foot spacing with the neighboring ring. Finally, there are 6-foot markers (orange dashes) to provide reference points for exhibitors to social distance during the judging.

Self-serve armband tables at the ring entrances.



Ribbons are laid out for the exhibitor to pick-up as they exit the ring.



Group Ring

Markers (X's) were added outside the group ring to line up the dogs before entering the ring in order to reduce entry gate congestion and maintain distancing.

Judging

Exhibitors using social distancing markers on the ground to maintain safe distances.

Official's Tables

Plexi-glass screens were used to protect exhibitors and officials.

Club officials from out-of-state attended to determine what would work at their upcoming shows. The Learning Cluster truly lived up to its name. Thank You to the clubs, superintendent, judges and exhibitors. You have helped demonstrate the way forward.

With plenty of hand sanitizer, face coverings, and efforts to maintain distancing, exhibitors were clearly excited to return to the ring.