

# Golden Tales

JUNE 2020



*Golden Moment . . .*

MID-FLORIDA GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB

**In this issue . . .**

**Mark your calendars**  
**President's Message**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Virtual Club Meeting**  
**Summer Specialty Postponed**  
**Welcome New Members**  
**Virtual Therapy Dog Visit**  
**2021 GRCA National Specialty**  
**August Trials Cancelled**  
**Volunteering Opportunities**  
**Attention Rally Exhibitors**  
**Youth Circuit**  
**Accolades**



Aleah Rowe and "Maddie"

## **Mark Your Calendars**

**General Meeting** – September 19 – DeLand, FL

**MFGRC Summer Specialty** – September 25 – Tampa, FL

**MFGRC Fall Agility Trial 1**– October 9-10-11 – Weirsdale, FL

**MFGRC Fall Agility Trial 2** – October 16-17-18 – Weirsdale, 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

*(Tentative schedule – subject to change)*

COVER STORY – President Ann Rowe's grandchildren – Conner, Dede, Aleah and their Golden girl "Maddie" experiencing sunset on the Appalachian Trail - a golden moment!

# President's Message . . .



*Looking forward . . .*

*Photo by Courtney Roxby*

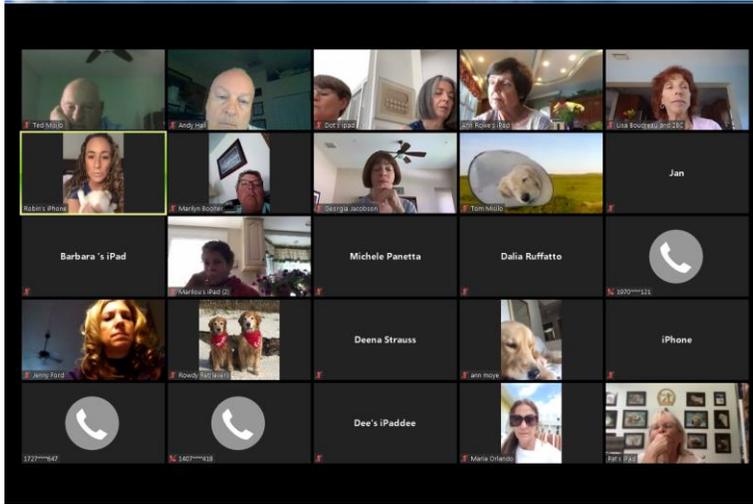
Summer has arrived along with the heat, hurricane season, civil unrest, and a pandemic that won't go away. Social distancing and masks have become the new norm.

But let us be a bit optimistic here ... Our National may have been cancelled, but we will be privileged to host the 2021 National (our groundwork has already been laid). Our Obedience and Rally trials may have been cancelled also, but we anticipate better trials next year and the dates are set. Our June Specialty was postponed, but we look forward to its new date September 25.

And (drum roll please) in the midst of all this social distancing, we were able to conduct our first **virtual** club meeting successfully! It was great to see so many familiar faces!

So let us try and keep a positive attitude, and look to the future. Stay safe, chins up, hug your dogs and your loved ones, and forge ahead my friends!

*Ann Rowe*



## MFGRC Holds Successful First "Virtual" Club Meeting

On May 9, the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club did what many corporations across America and the world have been doing while people are working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic – a virtual meeting.

Using the popular online conferencing tool **Zoom**, 34 club members re-connected with each other, saw familiar faces and heard familiar voices for the first time since dog activities were paused due to the pandemic.

After club president Ann Rowe led the meeting through an agenda of club business, members used the remaining time for general discussion and socializing.

The club is tentatively planning to hold another virtual meeting in July. Club members will be notified by email.

## MFGRC Summer Specialty Postponed to September

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club's Summer Specialty, originally scheduled for June 12, has been postponed to the intended date of Friday, September 25, due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Specialty is part of the Sunshine State Classic at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa.

The entire cluster has been rescheduled for September 23-27.

Judging the Specialty for the MFGRC will be Jan Paulk of Santa Fe, N.M., while judging sweepstakes will be Joanne Cava, a Golden Retriever breeder from Fort Mill, S.C.

MFGRC vice president Robin Burket is chairing the Specialty with co-chair Michele Panetta.



# Welcome New Club Members!

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club welcomed new members to its ranks during the “virtual” general meeting held on May 9.

The new members were:

Deb Farris, Nebo, NC (sponsored by Lisa Boudreau) (returning member)

Heidi Buck, Palm Harbor, FL (sponsored by Jeff Rushe)

Karen Brady, Brandon, FL (sponsored by Caroline Kendrick) (returning member)

Janice and Michael Smith, Tierra Verde, FL (sponsored by Lisa Boudreau)

Georgia Jacobson, Orlando, FL (sponsored by Ann Rowe)

Deb Farris



Heidi Buck

Karen Brady



Janice Smith



Georgia Jacobson



## Unable to Visit in Person, Jill Kennon Produces Virtual Therapy Dog Video

*EDITOR'S NOTE: MFGRC member Jill Kennon and her Golden Breeze and Moon are usually active therapy team volunteers. Due to the pandemic, they've had to pause their therapy visits so Jill decided to make a video she could post on YouTube to send around for a "virtual" therapy dog visit. She shared the script and some stills from the video with Golden Tales.*



*. . . from Jill Kennon*

Hi, My name is Jill and these are my dogs Breeze...and Moon. We are therapy team volunteers working in animal assisted therapy and activities through Therapy Patient Connections in Palm Coast, Fla., and formerly of Mid South Therapy Dogs in Memphis, TN.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, we are no longer able to visit any of our friends in hospitals, schools, libraries and senior care facilities. At first, we wanted to do a small "hello" to some of those friends, but this idea has blossomed into a very LARGE THANK YOU to all of those people working on the front line and simply to all of those people who are lonely, sad and worried these days.

So welcome to our virtual therapy visit! Here's **Breeze**. She has the BEST smile. Breeze is an 8-year-old Golden Retriever and has been my therapy partner since she was 19 months old. She is amazing and has done hundreds of therapy visits in hospitals, hospice, memory care, assisted living, nursing homes, schools, libraries, stress relief events for nursing and medical students and grief camps for children.



This is **Moon** – she's just three years old and has only been a therapy dog for a year. She has more limited experience, but unlimited love. She IS the supreme snuggle bear.

Due to the virus and current restrictions, the girls and I are no longer able to do our volunteer work. We also can't do other fun activities together like obedience and agility classes and trials or dock diving competitions. Our most favorite activity of going to the beach was not possible for the last month. We are doing our best to stay busy, taking lots of walks, chasing lizards, and begging for blueberries. We try to keep ourselves entertained, but most of all, we love to go swimming!

So to every nurse, doctor and healthcare professional nationwide who continues to care for all of us in emergency rooms, hospitals and senior care facilities and to those of you we can't visit now – the patients, kids, teachers, librarians, grief counselors, hospice workers, physical and occupational therapists, CNAs, neighbors and friends – these moments of puppy love are for YOU. We can't wait to hug you when this is all over!



## *Update on GRCA National Specialty*

# MFGRC Will Host 2021 GRCA National Specialty

Thanks to the very generous gestures of the Cuyahoga Valley Golden Retriever Club and the Golden Retriever Club of America, the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club will get to host a GRCA National Specialty after all: the 2021 GRCA National has been moved to Florida and will be held at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala, FL.

The MFGRC was originally slated to host the 2020 GRCA National Specialty in October but the event was canceled in April due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, the CVGRC, which was to host the 2021 event, agreed to move its event to 2022, with approval from the GRCA, so that the MFGRC could finish what it started and host the National in 2021.

“We cannot thank the members of the Cuyahoga Valley Golden Retriever Club and the GRCA enough for allowing us to move our event to 2021,” said Pat Kopco, co-chair of the National Committee for the MFGRC. “We had done so much work and preparation to get ready to host the National this year and to have all of that go by the wayside would have been heartbreaking.

“Now we’ll have 18 months to finish preparations and bring the GRCA National back with a big Florida welcome.”

The 2021 GRCA National will take place over the last week of October, with the schedule to be announced in the coming months.



## MFGRC Cancels Obedience/Rally Trial Due to Pandemic

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club has canceled its annual AKC all-breed Obedience and Rally Trial due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The trial was to have been held Aug. 8-9 at the Obedience Club of Daytona in Daytona Beach.

The MFGRC looks forward to next year’s all-breed Obedience and Rally Trial that will be held Aug. 14-15, 2021, at the Obedience Club of Daytona.

Next year’s trial will have a panel of judges representing three states, including Michigan’s Susan Emerson, Kathryn Griner from Georgia and Ken Kincaid of Florida.

# Volunteering . . .

## *Opportunities to Volunteer are Upcoming*



**October 9-10-11 and October 16-17-18** – Agility Trials 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., and help pack up equipment after the trial on Sunday, October 18.

**November 14-15** – Hunt Test at Golden Oaks Ranch in Montverde, FL. Volunteers are needed to work in several areas including as marshals, handling birds, preparing and delivering lunches, etc. The club could also use help in setting up equipment on Friday, November 13, and cleaning up after the event ends on November 15.

Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact MFGRC club secretary Andy Hall at [andyhall58@hotmail.com](mailto:andyhall58@hotmail.com)

## Want to Volunteer for the 2021 GRCA National? Here's how . . .

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club is hosting the 2021 Golden Retriever Club of America National Specialty in October of 2021 and needs help from all members of the club.

Many members have already signed up for various committees and activities related to the 2021 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 [2021goldenvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:2021goldenvolunteers@gmail.com).

The National Specialty will include more than a week of competition, social events, clinics, seminars, shopping and more. The majority of the event will be held at the beautiful new World Equestrian Center in Ocala, FL.



# Attention Rally Exhibitors . . .

## *From AKC . . . Rally® Novice Virtual Pilot Program*

During this time of necessary social distancing, we want to give our beginner AKC Rally® exhibitors a reason to continue training their dogs and to stay engaged with the sport of Rally. The AKC Rally Novice Virtual pilot program will provide these exhibitors an opportunity to stay-at-home and enter an AKC Rally® event.

The pilot program is designed to have a Rally Novice competitor set up a pre-designed AKC Rally® course in the safety of their own yard, record the performance and submit it to AKC. In turn, AKC will assign a pre-selected AKC Rally Judge to virtually review and score the team's Rally performance.

AKC will have five pre-designed official rally courses published on the AKC website for the exhibitor to choose from. The exhibitor will follow the setup instructions provided, video the performance, upload the video to YouTube, set the required YouTube viewing options, and submit the video link with the entry form and fee to AKC.



Back to practice! Paula Black and Courtney Roxby with their young Golden "Eli" and "Caly" at their Rally Class.



Once the required information is received, and the dog's records are verified for class eligibility, the video link will be assigned to a judge for review. The judge will score the team's performance and will provide a report to AKC. All qualifying scores will be recorded on the dog's AKC record and applied toward the Rally Novice title requirements. AKC will notify exhibitors of the results of their submission.

This pilot program will end at midnight **December 31, 2020** and all video submissions must be received by that date and time. We are excited to offer this virtual option to our **Rally Novice exhibitors!**

If you have questions after reviewing the information, please write to [Rally@akc.org](mailto:Rally@akc.org)

# YOUTH CIRCUIT . . . *from the younger side*



Karli got her first win in the ring with Iris, a Golden belonging to Morgan Brooks, in Brooksville in January.

## Karli's Journey *From showing chickens to showing dogs*

Debbie O'Hanlon and her 14-year-old daughter Karli Pixley have had quite a journey to the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club.

Debbie and Karli, who live in Inverness, FL, were showing chickens when Karli raised the question to her mom about switching to showing dogs. Karli's interest was piqued by her best friend, who had a show Beagle.

"When she inquired, we were into chicken showing, which was very time consuming," said Debbie. "Chickens were just too fragile and would pass away too often. We care for all our animals like they are family and all of the losses just started to be too much to handle.

"One day I told her if we can rehome most of the chickens, we will look into showing dogs."

Debbie actually had some history with dogs and dog shows – when she was a young teen, she showed dogs, and her first job at age 16 was as a vet tech, which she did for more than two years.

To learn as much as they could, the two started going to dog shows around Florida in September of 2019.

"At the third show we went to, we were blessed to meet (handlers) Kelly Barrera and Janice Granda," Debbie said. "They took Karli under their wing. I wanted her to know all the work that would go into getting a dog ready for a show. She started helping them feed, clean, groom and get dogs to the ring. After one show, she knew this was what she loved and that Golden Retriever was the dog for her."

Debbie and Karli joined the MFGRC in October of 2019 at the Fun Field Day held in Ocala.

"We joined MFGRC so we could start meeting people that had Golden Retrievers," Debbie said. "I asked on the Facebook page about needing someone to train Karli and that led me to (handler/breeder) Morgan Brooks.

"Morgan offered to train her and also had puppies on the way," she said. "For the next four months, we



*Karli hopes to make a champion out of her Golden puppy **Guapo***

could to help Kelly and Janice, and we spent time with Morgan and the puppies. When we brought (puppy) Guapo home in December, Karli and I decided it was time for her to get in the ring.

“So, we contacted Morgan and she was gracious enough to allow Karli to show her dog, Iris,” she said. “In four shows, Karli made it through Novice Junior Showmanship.”

After that, Karli wanted to try showing a different dog for the experience and a family friend loaned her Bon, their Australian Shepherd. After they had worked together in a couple of shows, Karli and Bon won her Intermediate Junior Showmanship class at a show Feb. 22 in Tallahassee.

That show, the last one they were able to attend before the COVID-19 pandemic paused dog activities, was Debbie’s proudest moment as a mother related to dogs. “Watching her be truly committed to learning this sport made me very proud,” she said.

Since showing for the first time in January of this year, Karli has shown three breeds in one day for handlers (Golden, Vizsla, Lab). She has won three times in Novice Junior Showmanship and the one win in Intermediate Junior Showmanship.

In addition to Conformation, Debbie and Karli have also leaned into some other dog activities. They volunteered at the MFGRC Hunt Test last November, where Debbie worked as a marshal and Karli helped collect ducks. With Bon, they competed in FastCat. And with their puppy Guapo, they are taking private Obedience classes, teaching him the tricks he needs for his Novice Trick Dog title and doing an online scent work class.

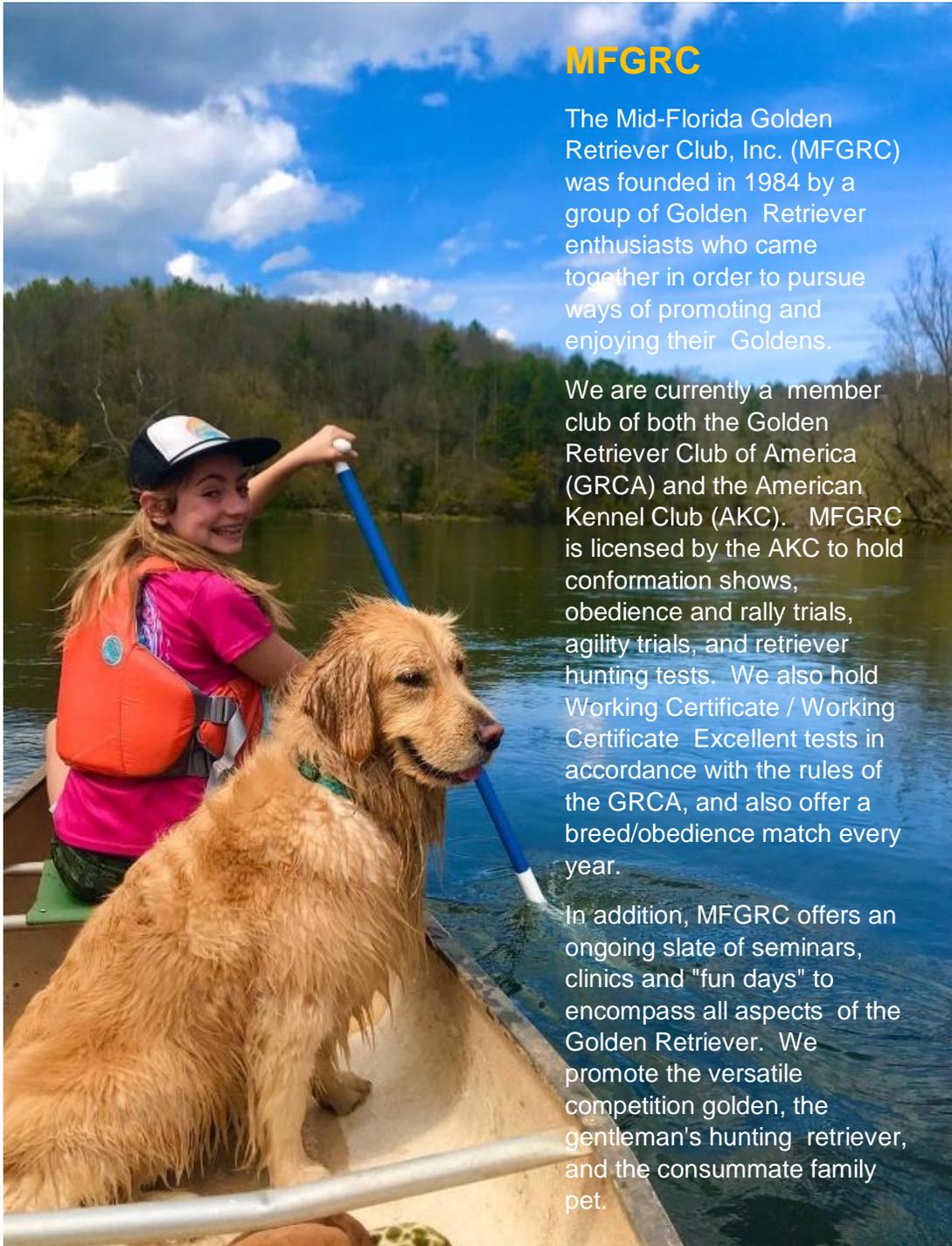
What does Karli enjoy the most about working with dogs and what are her goals?

“Being able to bond with them and become one with them,” she said. “I love to learn their personality so we can work better together.”

“I would like to create a champion out of Guapo, become a better handler, mentor and continue what Morgan has started with creating a healthier Golden by breeding.” The journey continues!



Debbie O'Hanlon (left) and her daughter Karli Pixley



## 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.

Aleah Rowe and "Maddie"

### **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](http://WWW.MFGRC.ORG)



# Accolades . . .



Charlie and Barb White's Mac (GJJCH Omni's at McGuire's Landing DSA DJA CGC TKN) received his Dock Senior Excellent (DSX) title at Ocala Dog Ranch while adhering to COVID-19 protocols.



Bonnie and Walter Scherer's Tahani (Malagold Tahani CD RN JH WC CGC CCA TD) earned her Obedience CD title at a trial in Jupiter, FL.



Jan Casey's Golden boy BT (BlueTrack Light Up The Sky NA NAJ BCAT DM DSX CGC TKI) earned his Dock Senior Excellent 2 title at Ocala Dog Ranch.



Carol Atkinson's Golden girl Tigger (Snobird's Eye of the Tiger SIN) earned her Trick Dog Novice title in a private evaluation that incorporated social distancing



MJ Douglas' Golden boy Tag (Firemark's Looks Like Fun N Games) earned his Dock Diving Master title in a trial held at Ocala Dog Ranch.



Julie and Tom Wangelin's girl Dharma earned her Barn Hunt RATN title at the Dog Training Club of Tampa's trial. Dharma is trained by Marie Blevins and Eileen Geoghegan.

# Accolades . . .

*Each year, the MFGRC provides rosettes to eligible club members who earn new titles for their Golden Retrievers during the course of the year. In order to be eligible, a club member must volunteer to work at one club event during the year or perform the equivalent amount of work behind-the-scenes.*



Robin Burket's Golden girls Halia's Christmas In Killarney CCA CGC TKN (Eve, left), and Ivory Blaze Twice As Nice CCA (Anni) proudly show their MFGRC new title rosettes.



(L-R) Tahani (Malagold Tahani CD RN JH WC CGC CCA TD), Orion (Gazn Journeys of Orion CD RA CGC) and Kody (SHR U-CH Star Crowned Kodiak Island CD BN RN JH WC CGC CCA) model their MFGRC New Title Rosettes from 2019. They belong to Elizabeth Scherer (Orion and Kody) and her parents Bonnie and Walter Scherer (Tahani).



Ten-year-old Puccini (GCH Questan's Madama Butterfly BISS BVISS DN), who belongs to Julie and Tom Wangelin, earned her Novice dock diving title as a veteran at a dock diving trial held with social distancing at 24K Retrievers in Cairo, GA.



Virginia McQueeney's Golden girl London (Monark's English Salt Water Taffy) earned her Barn Hunt RATI title in a trial held at the Dog Training Club of Tampa. London is trained by Marie Blevins and Destiny Martel of 24K Retrievers.



Mel Lucas and her service dog Godric earned Godric's Trick Dog title with an online training system.