“Hark the Herald
Wheatens Sing...”
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From The President....

Montgomery 2010 is over, but the memories will live in the hearts of those who attended for years to come, and as an added touch, the weather could not have been better for dogs and exhibitors. I happened to be in the lobby on Wednesday when several SCWTCA members were arriving. The excitement and anticipation of the days to come were evident. There were changes for this year’s show starting with where we stayed, then where we showed and finally what prizes we won.

The Dolce Hotel went beyond the call of duty to make our stay comfortable. The hotel personnel were always there, and no matter what was requested the response was always “no problem.” The only concern that was expressed was the lack of outside lighting when exercising the dogs. They have assured us that problem will be addressed for our stay next year. The Annual Dinner was well attended and the atmosphere was electric thanks to Emily Holden and her “helpers” providing not only a great boutique, but also the added attraction of Wheaten artists and their unique pieces that were available for purchase. I had the pleasure of addressing the group and having the perspective to see the activity in the room from the podium. Everyone was laughing, hugging, sharing stories and really enjoying each other’s company. It was great! The highlights of the evening were the entrance of Sophie, the rescue dog, who was saved from living a life in a dingy basement with severe ear infections and skin problems. After being nursed back to health by Nancy and John DiLani, our Rescue Family of the Year, she now has a wonderful family with Lynne and Dick Eckoff, and is living the life every Wheaten deserves.

Dharma (Villa Rosa Vel Donilla O’Kaler, breeder Karen Mueller) was our first Wheaten to win the Wheaten Ambassador Award for community service sponsored by Dorice and Mark Stancher. Dharma and her owners, Sharon and Gerry Masica raised over $500,000 by accepting donations in front of their local Kroeger store to benefit autistic children through a program they developed called “Agility Angels.” Autistic children are given the opportunity to work with agility dogs to promote communication skills, and some of the children have given demonstrations at their school and even participated in agility events. She received a standing ovation from the entire group when she entered the room to receive her award. It was a very emotional and heartwarming evening to say the least with our two very special guests present.

MCKC asked us to move our ring this year due to construction issues. We agreed to this request for one year. The ring was large and located by the gym. We had grooming and parking next to the ring, and our own hospitality tent. There were three sides of seating, so everyone had a good view of the show. Even though there were lots of benefits to the ring placement, the majority of responses the Board received were requests to return to Ring 2 for 2011 stating that the Montgomery atmosphere was truly missed. We have been assured that Wheatens will be shown in Ring 2 in 2011.

Another change for this year was the trophies. Thanks to Gary Vlachos and Bill Behan, we had beautiful hammered aluminum and bronze pieces with the raised SCWTCA logo on the large pieces and an etched Wheaten head designed by Darcie Olson on the smaller pieces. Wendall August produced these trophies, and they worked diligently to get all our pieces completed in time. (If you will remember, their entire facility burned to the ground in late spring. “Board panic” is not a good thing to experience!) Many thanks to Denise Cronin Kerby and her helper Lynn Cone for doing such a great job of collecting donations and organizing the trophies.

The Sunday night party, “Who Let The Dogs Out,” was a fun evening providing more surprises. The first Brenmoor Bred-By Challenge Award sponsored by Gary Vlachos and Bill Behan was presented to Christy Weagant who screamed with delight! The award was a beautiful Wendall August piece. The final surprise of the evening was the appearance of Patricia Nemirovsky-Alsina, the opera singer who sang The Star Spangled Banner and Oh Canada at the beginning of the MCKC show. She entertained us with her talent and finished off the evening with singing “We Are The Champions!”

All I can say is, “What a weekend!” Everyone truly did---

“Celebrate the Breed. Celebrate the Friendships!”

Jinx Moore
From the Editor....

Working on this first issue of Benchmarks has been an exciting, exasperating, challenging, and ultimately, a remarkable experience. One of the biggest challenges arrived in the form the publishing software, something I had never worked with. While this issue is 60 pages long, I think I actually prepared twice that many as I learned some of the tricks of this powerful program.

For those of you who don’t know me, I have spent the last 25 years devoted to our breed. Little did I know that when I bought that first show-quality puppy, I would become obsessed with all things dog. I had grown up with Cairns as pets, so dog shows were totally new to me. I took a deep breath and plunged into a fascinating, new world. My major focus over the years has been conformation, and more than 50 AKC champions have Stratford as their prefix. Over the last quarter century, I have served on the Greater Denver Board, on the SCWTCA Board as Recording Secretary, and as coordinator of The MCKC Specialty weekend. I have also taught upper level English – mainly composition – for many years, so returning to the world of writing and editing – where I started in high school – is a bit like coming home.

As editor of Benchmarks, I hope to preserve those things that you cherish as well as introduce new ideas as they come along. In this issue, you will see many reports from the Montgomery weekend, as well as Milwaukee club specialty reports, columns about seniors and celebrating the long lives of those Wheatens who have left us.

Featured in this issue is the exciting news about Meryl Littman’s and Paula Henthorn’s receipt of a sizable grant from CHF. Littman’s article gives the most current information about the grant. Accompanying her piece is one from the heart. It is the story of the first dog biopsied for the Littman-Henthorn study. I sincerely hope you will join in this worthy cause.

On the new front, I have made some changes and additions. I have reduced the age from 14 to 13 to qualify for both the senior columns. You can send all pictures and information about your dogs to Jeri Voyles. I have made some adjustments on the information page on the inside back cover. Please note that my correct address is in Benchmarks, not the Directory. Both copy and advertising is due the first day of the month preceding publication. You will also see results from the Greater Denver specialty in the December issue because that show moved its date to September.

In the March issue a new column will appear. The current working title is “Lessons Learned,” and Kathy McIndoe will author the inaugural piece. The idea for this column came from Pam Mandeville who suggested that veteran breeders write about experiences they have had – both good and bad – and what valuable lessons they have learned. This isn’t intended to be a rah-rah, look-how-great-I-am-column; rather, it is one that can be instructive for the new members of our breed as well as those with some years under their belts. The impetus was the rich discussions on the Breeders’ List which followed MCKC this year. It is clear to me that the mentoring system under which I learned really is no longer firmly in place. I think it is the responsibility of seasoned veterans to share our stories, warts and all.

Please continue to support Benchmarks with your splendid advertising, and feel free to send suggestions or ideas for future issues. I would love to see candids submitted for the cover and body of the magazine. Most of all, love your dogs, be kind to one another, and support your dog clubs in every way you are able.

Molly O’Connell

NEW OPEN REGISTRY MEMBERS
November 15, 2010

Marichal Binns
Diane & Terry Brennan
Michele Connor
Lise Moore
Geri Mozel

For membership form, visit SCWTCA web site at:
http://scwtca.org/documents/health/or_membershi
pform_20100630.pdf.

For a complete list of Open Registry members, email kccarlson@comcast.net.
It's Our 40th Anniversary!

We hope you will join us to celebrate
Our Specialty Weekend
May 6th, 7th and 8th 2011

3 days of Fun, Food and Friends

Friday: Garden State Terrier Club
Judge: Gay Sherman Dunlap
Plus new event: Breeder Sweepstakes

Saturday: Bucks County Kennel Club
Judge: Cindy Vogels
Plus: Puppy Sweepstakes

Sunday: Trenton Kennel Club
Judge: Richard Urquhart
Plus: Veteran Sweepstakes

For further information contact
Show Chairpersons
Dennis Baribault and Steven Sweeney
DBNYCPhoto@aol.com
Learning More About PLN in Wheatens
by
Meryl Littman, VMD, DACVIM,
University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

Please see accompanying article in this issue:
Bridie Pearson – 1 Kidney Biopsy Donor . . .

Geneticist Dr. Paula Henthorn and I are continuing to gather DNA samples in our SCWT DNA bank from dogs affected with genetic diseases and geriatric unaffected dogs. Funding from AKC-CHF was granted to help us study the samples in regards to PLE/PLN (protein-losing enteropathy and protein-losing nephropathy) by genome-wide association studies with SNP chip technology and fine mapping of areas of interest. In that study we also have funds to help owners with dogs like Bridie Pearson (see the accompanying article in this issue) with their veterinary bills when they have diagnostic tests including renal biopsy to help determine their exact phenotype. This is important not only for our research, but in order to choose the best treatment protocol based on what is known concerning various types of PLN in humans.

I recently finished a chapter about PLN in dogs and cats which will be in the January 2011 issue of the Veterinary Clinics of North America. I described the following clinical stages of PLN, as presented to veterinarians:

Stage 1 – Proteinuria begins. Often the dog is asymptomatic at this point.

Stage 2 – Serum albumin drops. The dog may still be asymptomatic at this point but in some cases serious complications such as thromboembolic events, hypertension, or effusions/edema may occur as early as stage 2.

Stage 3 – Serum creatinine and BUN rise. At this point serum albumin may be low or may normalize due to dehydration; proteinuria may actually decline as renal failure occurs.

Stage 4 – Urine specific gravity drops and polyuria/polydipsia (increased urine volume and thirst) may be noted as renal failure worsens. Decreased appetite, lethargy, weight loss, vomiting, etc. are also signs of renal failure.

We know so much more about the entity known as “PLN” than we used to!

1. There are various forms or subtypes of PLN in dogs, including those caused by genetic and acquired factors. We should not assume that all Wheatens with PLN always have a genetic form of PLN. Also, we need to better define exactly what the genetic form of PLN in Wheatens looks like morphologically, using the newest methods available because the old methods do not show the detail necessary to avoid confusing one subtype with another. Diagnostic tests including renal cortical biopsies interpreted with the latest technology can help identify the subtype of PLN occurring in each individual. When more of these biopsies are done, we will understand better what exactly is the “genetic form of PLN” in Wheatens, and the diversity of findings that may exist. For instance, it’s possible that something different is going on in dogs with combined PLE/PLN versus PLN alone.

2. It is best to identify which form of PLN is occurring in each individual so that we can
choose the best treatment protocol for that dog. For instance, if a dog has an infection or an immune-mediated cause, it may need specific therapy such as antibiotics or immunosuppressive pulse therapy, in addition to the supportive and symptomatic protocols used for PLN, such as angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, low antithrombotic dose of baby aspirin, diet changes, antihypertensives, omega 3-fatty acids, etc.

3. The best time to get renal cortical biopsies in dogs with PLN is relatively early in the process, before there are chronic changes such as scarring, fibrosis, or end-stage changes in the kidney, which obscure the initial lesions. Thus, it would be best to get renal cortical biopsies taken during life, rather than after death.

4. Renal cortical biopsies for PLN subtype identification can be safely done by experienced personnel with ultrasound guidance, under anesthesia, using a Tru-cut needle for core biopsies (however, this is not sufficient for a diagnosis of renal dysplasia which would require a wedge biopsy). Diagnostic tests should first be done to see if the dog is a candidate and whether the core biopsy procedure should be considered (contact Dr. Littman at 215-898-9288 for advice and possible help with funding BEFORE planning a renal cortical biopsy). A most thorough work-up may include CBC, Chemscreen, urinalysis, urine protein/creatinine ratios, urine culture, blood pressure measurements, titers for exposure to infectious diseases that can cause PLN (depending on where the dog has lived or travelled), and chest radiographs and abdominal ultrasound to check for cancer or other diseases.

5. The pros and cons of getting a renal cortical biopsy must be considered for each dog as an individual.

6. The most sophisticated, state-of-the-art examination of these renal cortical biopsies is done at the Texas Veterinary Renal Pathology Service by Dr. George Lees and his team. Dr. Lees should be contacted (979-845-2351) by your veterinarian BEFORE the biopsy day is planned, so that the appropriate materials and instruction kit can be sent out for them to use. The renal cortical biopsies need to be prepared in 3 very special ways and then sent to Dr. Lees by overnight (FedEx) express, on ice, in Michel’s fixative (for immunofluorescence “IF”), in glutaraldehyde (for electron microscopy, “EM”), and in formalin (for light microscopy “LM”), which would be done rigorously with thinner cuts of tissue than are usually done for general histopathology.

7. We recommend that renal cortical biopsies be done as above in appropriate cases, in order to identify the subtype of PLN so that we can offer the most specific therapy to help the individual. By sharing information, this will help the whole Wheaten community learn about the diversity of results found in the field, and to know if Wheaten PLN may be a model for a type of PLN in people (and vice versa). This will lead to our better understanding of PLN in both species regarding pathophysiology, treatment, and prevention. And please don’t forget to send in the DNA sample to our DNA Bank at PennVet so that we can hopefully help future generations of Wheatens avoid getting PLN in the first place!

Footnote Reminder: If you have a dog who may qualify for Drs. Littman and Henthorn’s study, contact Dr. Littman at 215-898-9288 for advice and possible help with funding BEFORE planning a renal cortical biopsy.
An Invaluable Gift to the Future of Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers
by Debbie Pearson, Dr. Meryl Littman and Amy Havely

Bridie Pearson – 1st Kidney Biopsy Donor for Drs. Littman and Henthorn’s Study

From Owner Debbie Pearson:

Although she loves the city of Nashville, Bridie prefers the country life in Arkansas on our farm. Bridie is our happy, alert, fun-loving family pet that brings so much joy to our lives. Everyone who meets her agrees that she is indeed a great dog. Bridie spends her days playing with her best friend, black Labrador Retriever. They go for long walks, wade in the lake, and ride on the golf cart. Bridie simply enjoys life and fits in anywhere she goes.

From the day I contacted her breeder, Amy Havely, Bridie is the dog of which I dreamed. In my quest for a Wheaten puppy, I found myself making phone calls, interviews, and visits to Amy’s home and soon knew that I would be getting my first SCWT puppy. I was so excited.

It was in the fall of 2005 that I made the 2-hour trip to Nashville and fell in love at first sight. Since then, Bridie has fulfilled and surpassed every expectation I ever had in a family companion.

Because she is such a significant member of our family, we have always followed the yearly health protocol and advice of our breeder to avert any potential health problems. However, it was during the yearly exam and health screening in which the first sign of kidney problems appeared.

Our vet, Dr. Graves, indicated that the blood work and urinalysis reports revealed higher than normal amounts of protein. At this time, Dr. Graves recommended further testing. Although he informed us of expense, I immediately knew whatever Bridie needed was what I would do for her.

Upon receiving these results, Amy recommended going to Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine (MSU’s CVM) in order to seek knowledgeable doctors who are experienced with protein-losing diseases. Soon after, we made our way to MSU’s CVM where they performed more tests, findings of which were discussed with Dr. Littman at UPENN, who then suggested a kidney biopsy. Although the risk of a biopsy made me nervous, the staff made me feel comfortable about the procedure and even called me often during her recovery to reassure me that she had done extremely well. I picked her up the next day and Bridie was her old self—a very happy dog.

Though it was scary for me to think about going through with this biopsy, I realize it was necessary to properly diagnose and treat this problem.

Unfortunately, results from the biopsy proved my worst fears: Bridie has PLN. She is now on special medication and diet as prescribed.

Nonetheless, the good news is that when PLN is detected early as in Bridie’s case, before the dog is outwardly sick, medication and intervention will help to keep her happy and stable. In the meantime, Bridie can continue playing on the farm, riding in the golf cart, and delivering our family the happiness that she has always brought.

From Dr. Meryl Littman:

Bridie generally had been a healthy, happy female spayed Soft-coated Wheaten terrier. She was up-to-date on vaccinations and was given flea/tick/heartworm preventative. She lives on a farm with other dogs, horses, ponds, etc. Past history included allergies/skin issues intermittently treated with steroids. But when Bridie presented to her veterinarian at 5.5 years of age because of slow subtle changes including finicky appetite, decreased energy, and increased thirst, renal disease was a concern. Physical examination was non-remarkable. Blood and urine tests showed azotemia (elevated serum BUN and creatinine), borderline low albumin, proteinuria, and decreased urine specific gravity. Imaging showed small kidneys. Urine culture and tests for exposure to Leptospirosis, Lyme, Anaplasma, Ehrlichia, and heartworm were negative. A Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever titer was low positive, indicating past exposure. Her blood pressure measurement was normal.

Bridie was feeling pretty good but was diagnosed with early chronic renal failure and Stage 4 PLN (see article in this issue: Learning More About PLN in Wheaten). Bridie was exhibiting some findings
consistent with genetic PLN in Wheatens, but other findings she had were not typical. What could we do to help determine the best protocol for Bridie’s treatment? We recommended that a renal cortical biopsy be done and examined in detail by the Texas Veterinary Renal Pathology Service (Dr. George Lees and his team) where the newest techniques are used including electron microscopy, immunofluorescence, and thin-section light microscopy (see “Learning More About PLN in Wheatens” in this issue). The biopsy results would be used to help Bridie herself as well as help us learn more about PLN in Wheatens.

Bridie did very well through the biopsy procedure and was sent home with medication to decrease her urinary protein loss and with a modified hypoallergenic diet for dogs with early renal failure. Her biopsy results showed that immunosuppressive therapy is not warranted in her case of PLN. This is an important finding, because immunosuppressive therapy may have serious side effects and should not be used blindly, but would be recommended if her renal biopsy result supported their usage. We don’t know if Bridie’s biopsy results will be typical of genetic PLN in Wheatens, because not enough of these detailed biopsies have been done yet.

Bridie continues to have blood and urine tests checked periodically to monitor her situation and so far she is stable and feeling good. But we know that she has less renal reserve than normal, and we are getting prepared for the fact that this disease is known to be progressive and that sadly Bridie will probably not have a full life span. There may be other medications, diet changes, and options that we will consider as necessary in the future to help Bridie have a good quality of life for as long as possible. I wish to thank the owner, breeder, and all the veterinarians involved who helped with the diagnostic work-up and management planning so that Bridie can have as full a life as possible. Thank you for sharing information about Bridie so that we can all learn more about Wheatens and their health issues.

From Breeder Amy Havely

During the 16 years of breeding SCWTs, I have always dreaded the phone call that would make my heart sink and tears well up in my eyes. Sadly, August 29, 2010, was that dreaded day. Debbie Pearson, Bridie’s owner, gave me the final report of the kidney biopsy: PLN. I have shed many tears since that day as I listened to Debbie explain how much she loves her Wheaten and how important she is to their family. Although I did everything possible to avoid breeding this health problem into my lines, Debbie’s phone call with the disheartening news underscored the importance of definitively testing and detection of PLN.

Words are insufficient to explain the fabulous care Bridie’s owners have given her. The Pearsons provide a breeder’s dream home for their puppy. Debbie has gone above and beyond to help not only Bridie, but all Wheatens, by following through with the protocol to submit a kidney biopsy for Drs. Littman and Henthorn’s research.

I hope we all learn and benefit from this article so that we may help our dogs, as a breed, become healthier by determining the genetic basis for protein losing diseases. Early detection, definitive diagnosis, and genetic research are critical to achieving that goal. If you have the opportunity, please consider allowing your dog to offer a kidney biopsy to facilitate Drs. Littman and Henthorn’s study. The gracious gesture is an invaluable gift to the future of Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers.

Footnote: If you have a dog who may qualify for Drs. Littman and Henthorn’s study, contact Dr. Littman at 215-898-9288 for advice and possible help with funding BEFORE planning a renal cortical biopsy.
We’re Lovin’ “Life” ... Introducing our new Champions!

CH. KinCora Tara Life In The Fast Lane

CH. Duidream Quicktime  x  Kincora Tara Go For Gold

With an Award of Merit and Breed win over Specials, Race finished undefeated with 4 majors at only nine months old. While he’s home “growing up” he’s pursuing his other favorite activity – herding sheep. Our many thanks to the Judges who rewarded Race with these great wins. Watch for him in 2011!

Breeder/Owners:
Jon & Kathy Apogée
Kayce Healy / KinCora
Cecily Skinner / Tara

Presented By:
Cecily Skinner
Roxy finished with multiple Breed wins over Specials. Our thanks to the following judges for rewarding Roxy with Breed or Major wins: Mrs. Cindy Vogels, Mr. Michael Dougherty, Mr. David Kirkland, Mrs. Patricia Trotter, Mrs. Barbara Keenan and Mr. Robert Shreve pictured above.

Breeders:
Jon & Kathy Apogée
Kayce Healy / KINcORa
Cecily Skinner / TARA

Owned & Presented By:
Cecily Skinner
Despite torrential rains the week before (over 7 inches in just a few hours), the 2010 Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater Milwaukee (SCWTCGM) somehow managed to avoid the mud puddles and held another successful show. The day started out early with the Club participating in Meet the Breeds. Not only were we able to showcase our wonderful breed, we also had the opportunity to explain that the SCWTCGM and the Soft Coated Wheaten Club of America (SCWTCA) were good sources to find out more about Wheatens.

Margaret S. Wilson presided over an entry of four (1–3) in the sweepstakes. Jendu Twisted Sister bred by Dana Frady and owned by breeder and Cathy Perron (CH Fairfield’s Cyclone - CH Glenamon Bjorn Free of Jendu) won Best in Sweeps.

BOSS - Winterwheat’s Stolen Kisses.
Judge - Margaret S. Wilson.

Best of Opposite to Best in Sweeps was awarded to Winterwheat’s Stolen Kisses bred by Bette Eckstrom and owned by breeder and Bernadette Burnside (CH Meirleac’s Steal a Kiss - CH Winterwheat’s Second Chance).

JoAnn Dutton judged the Specialty entry of 19 (5-10-3-1). The final Winners Dog line-up consisted of Modny Style International Intrigue (6-9 mo.), Winterwheat’s Stolen Kisses (bred-by), and Mil Mear Just Joshin’ Todd (open).

WD - Modny Style International Intrigue.

Winners Dog went to Modny Style International Intrigue, bred by O. Kampaniets (Windisle Gravello - Magic Sun Jolie Femme). He is owned by Meggan Abboud and Kristen Williams.

Reserve Winners Dog went to Mil Mear Just Joshin’ Todd bred by Bruce and Monica Kipp (CH Mil Mear Geragold How Far? - Mil Mear’s Truth or Dare). He is owned by Belle Hemple.

Competing for Winners Bitch was Bradberry’s Mackanme Aim High (6-9 mo.), Edgewood Dog Classic (12-18 mo.), Jendu Twisted Sister (bred-by), Reyem Sweet Pea on the Vine (American bred), and Redhill’s Georgia on My Mind (open). Winners Bitch was awarded to Jendu Twisted Sister, with reserve going to Bradberry’s Mackanme Aim High bred by Deborah Van De Ven and Jeri Voyles (CH Melandee’s High Wire Act - CH Bradberry’s Alexandra Grace Kelly). She is owned by Laura Gralton and Deb Van de Ven.
CH Dundalk Put Me in Coach was awarded Best of Breed. He was bred by Carol Burdge & Barbara Zapf and owned by Carol Burdge (CH Marquee’s Tricks of the Trade - CH Dundalk Redhill Garden of Good and Evil). Jendu Twisted Sister was Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex.

The first four placements were given a plush toy, along with their ribbon. The top winners overall were also awarded an embroidered towel featuring a Wheaten outline. This year, the Sweepstakes and Specialty had the honor of being supported by the SCWTCA, who offered the winners medallions to commemorate the event.

Rain broke up the gathering early, but not before the silent auction items were won and raffle winners selected their items. Participants were also able to purchase Wheaten statues and scarves for their pets. Proceeds from the sale of scarves will be presented to the Wheaten Health Endowment Fund.
The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater Milwaukee hosted its annual picnic and fun match on Sunday June 13 at the home of Jim and Nancy Andersen. Despite a few showers, the weather overall was great. The showers did not put a damper on the opportunity to showcase our beloved Wheatens. Some who attended were long time Wheaten owners. Others were simply interested in the breed and wanted to know if a Wheaten would be the right dog for them.

At nearly 14, Ollie (CH Winterwheat’s JNA Mr. Ollie) was the oldest in attendance (born 10/22/96), with Jack (Pinehome’s Lumber Jack JNA), being the youngest at 4 months.

We were entertained by Abby with some of her tricks and Sprite who just was plain funny. Bette demonstrated the brace with Erin and Ellie. All four-legged participants received a bandana with their name on to commemorate the event.

The day continued with a hamburger and bratwurst (it is Wisconsin, you know) dinner. Each attendee brought a favorite dish to share. All enjoyed the opportunity to meet new friends and renew friendships with old.
Support Our Colony Dogs
...because of all they have done for us!

Artist Margaret Foxmoore lives with two Wheatens — one, Maisy, recently diagnosed with PLE/PLN. Margaret created this artwork to represent the five remaining Colony Dogs. The Wheagles are supported by the love and care from the people in the Colony Dog Study. Forget-Me-Nots symbolize those Colony Dogs who have crossed over. The lady bug brings luck. Hope flies on the wings of the birds.

The artist donated 50 prints of this artwork to raise money for our Colony Dogs. These prints are $20 each.

Make donations to the Colony Dogs via check or PayPal!
(Please specify “the Colony Dogs.”)
Please make your check payable to “NCState Medical Foundation”
and mail to: 4700 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27606.
To donate online via PayPal, please go to

(The SCWTCA Endowment, Inc. is a 501(c)3 corporation. All donations are tax-deductible.)

Thank you for supporting Wheaten Health!
In late August I was pleased to represent SCWTCA at the 2010 AKC Parent Club Conference in Durham, NC. It proved to be an invigorating series of seminars and discussion groups geared towards helping parent clubs with all matters dog and to showcase the latest thinking of the AKC’s many talented and dedicated staff members.

The conference began on a Friday with tours of the local AKC offices and finished on Sunday with a wonderful weekend wrap up. AKC Companion Animal Recovery (CAR) and Eukanuba sponsored many of the events and the agenda provided many learning opportunities, including:

- AKC CAR overview of services, discounts to AKC breeders and their support of search and rescue groups.
- Club Officers Forum that discussed short-term problems and concerns.
- Docking and Cropping Forum for clubs to share their ideas regarding ways to change or keep docking/cropping language.
- AKC Online Help and Print Resource Room
  - AKC Parent Club Communications: Roles and Functions of the AKC
  - Action in times of natural disasters and emergencies (Dennis Sprung)
  - Breeders of Merit Pilot Program (John Lyons)
  - Club Formation and Governance Support (Mike Liosis)
  - Events Management (Robin Stansell)
  - Public Education and Media Outreach (Lisa Peterson)
  - Special Services: Juniors Program, FSS, PAL and Standard Revisions (Mari-Beth O’Neil)
  - Affordable Club Insurance (Margaret Poindexter)
  - Registrations (David Roberts)
  - AKC PAC and other lobbying efforts and ways to contribute (Alan Kalter)
- Financial Aspects of the Operation of a Parent Club
- Impact of Declining Registrations
- Exhibitor Mentoring Program to retain Participation in Events
- Judges Education and Mentoring
- Improving the National Specialty
- Rescue for and by Parent Clubs
- Governance—the Effective Operation of the Parent Club
- Legislative Issues and the Parent Club—NAIA
- Canine Health and Welfare
  - COE’s
  - Standard Interpretation
  - AKC CHF
  - OFA CHIC

As you can see, there was plenty to do and learn from the many dedicated experts and volunteers. A few of the presentations ran concurrently so it was not possible to attend them all—but that was probably a good thing given the 2-1/2 days to cover it all.

The conference attendees included representatives from the long list of AKC recognized breeds and AKC FSS (Foundation Stock Service) accepted breeds. All of us—including AKC staff and directors—were lodged in the Sheraton Imperial Hotel (I was lucky to share my room with a fellow terrier breeder). The organization of seminars, discussion groups, and meals were all geared towards learning not only from the many lecturers and specialists but also from each other. One-way interaction was fostered via a resource library room where clubs shared everything from bylaws and standards to magazines and newsletters. There were many examples of yearbooks and magazines from clubs big and small. While the full color and glossy black and white material provided some of these publications with distinction and detail; few could stand up to the current stellar creativity of content and quality of our quarterly magazine and illustrated standard. SCWTCA contributed a series of recent Benchmark issues and copies of the Illustrated Standard that were all snapped up by attendees even though they were not supposed to take them!

As you can see from the agenda trying to summarize all of the material shared would be nearly impossible, but I can certainly provide some highlights. Presentations covered breeding, legislation, club workings, and future viability of the AKC. First and foremost, what came across loud and clear was that the AKC is hard at work trying to reaffirm itself to the public as the authority on breeding dogs for type and function, and promoting and protecting the sport of dogs from outside forces. To be successful, they need the support of member clubs.
Evident from the weekend beyond the enthusiasm, creativity, and inclusiveness was the commitment to the AKC’s stated core values, which I found online and copy for your information:

- **AKC’s Core Values:**
  - We love purebred dogs
  - We are committed to advancing the sport of the purebred dog
  - We are dedicated to maintaining the integrity of our Registry
  - We protect the health and well-being of all dogs
  - We cherish dogs as companions
  - We are committed to the interests of dog owners
  - We uphold high standards for the administration and operation of the AKC
  - We recognize the critical importance of our clubs and volunteers

During the weekend it became clear that we as dog owners and breeders face enormous opposition. This opposition is well funded and organized to take away rights that we take for granted as breeders and participants in companion events. There is a lot of effort from the NAIA and AKC PAC to help protect those rights but of course it starts with all of us becoming more informed and better ambassadors for our respective breeds. As a club, we are being asked to look at ways to organize against these forces and both AKC PAC and NAIA are leading the way. AKC PAC needs individuals to step up and donate towards lobbying efforts that protect our interests as breeders/exhibitors. You should also realize how much the AKC is doing to try to address declining registrations and acknowledge the efforts of the AKC’s biggest advocates . . . US! Unveiled at the conference was a new program called **AKC Breeders of Merit**. This program will highlight the hobby breeder as the standard bearer for purebred dogs, and in order to qualify breeders must meet the following requirements:

- Participate in AKC events a minimum of five years
- Be a member of an AKC club
- Have put four AKC titles on a dog of your breeding
- Affirm that you perform all recommended health screening stated by the parent club
- Agree to register all your puppies (new entire litter registration forms are available)

And as a recognized Breeder of Merit you receive:

- AKC registration papers issued for dogs they breed with a ‘gold BOM logo’
- Free online breeder classified listing
- Online record support through “My AKC”
- $20/month in AKC reports
- AKC Breeder of Merit Logo to put on their website

This exciting program is made more rewarding by the continuing improvements to the AKC website. If you are like me, you may have found the site daunting, but take a moment to revisit it. There is so much information available and if you can’t find what you need you can send an email for a direct response. Apart from the full-time webmaster, there is a dedicated archivist who regularly adds content. Clubs are able to plan their events and schedule judges online. Breeders are able to register puppies, print reports, and keep important records all in one place with “My AKC.” Just go to the site and set up your online account if you haven’t already. The AKC provided a number of coupons for members of parent clubs and participants at the National Specialty for Online Reports and reduced microchip rates for breeders, which I will try to pass along.

**See following page for AKC recommended ways to register your litters**
Six Easy Ways to 100% Registration

FULL LITTER PROCESS: Allows breeders to individually register all the puppies in the litter to the breeder(s) at the time of litter registration for a discounted price. As puppies are sold, the breeder will transfer ownership, ensuring that dogs you breed carry your kennel name and have been designated Full or Limited. No subsequent changes can be made to registration without the breeder’s written consent.

FULL LITTER OFFSPRING: Gives breeders who have already registered their litters with the AKC a second opportunity to individually register all the puppies in the litter to the breeder(s) at a discount, even though the breeder originally selected the traditional litter registration. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of the discounted price and complete the registration process.

FULL LITTER PLUS: All puppies in the litter are registered at the time of litter registration; however, they are registered in the name of the new puppy buyers. AKC will contact the new puppy buyers to get the name of the puppy. This assures that all puppies have been registered and ownership recorded.

FULL LITTER OFFSPRING PLUS: Breeders can register all puppies in the litter after the litter registration in the names of the new puppy buyers. AKC will contact the new puppy buyers to get the name of the puppy. This assures that all puppies have been registered and ownership recorded.

REGISTRATION AT THE TIME OF SALE:

A. Breeders ask their puppy buyers to fill out the registration application and provide a $20.00 check made out to AKC when they pick up their puppy, both of which the breeder then submits for them.

B. Breeders go online with their new puppy buyer at the time of puppy pick-up and help them complete the registration.

C. As a last resort, breeders would give the signed application to the new puppy buyer at time of pick-up and would follow up with them to emphasize the importance of registering the dog.

UNREGISTERED DOG PROGRAM: Add individual puppy information and the new owner information in the AKC’s Online Record Keeping System. The new owners will be contacted via AKC’s automated unregistered dog program and reminded to register their dog.
THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE

GCH. Aisling Claddagh U2 Can Be Like Me
(Ch. Marymore Gift Wrapped x Ch. Claddagh's Star-Studded Ceili)

INDIE
Following in her mother's footsteps with a Group Placement. Thank you judge Robert Widden for this recognition.

Bred, owned and handled by Viviana Hetherington
Scissors flew, dryers blew, and exhibitors combed, fluffed and buffed their dogs’ coats in preparation for a three-day show weekend. But it is September not August – could this be the Denver Wheaten Roundup? Yes. The Greater Denver Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club board moved its specialty from the traditional month in order to join the Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club (RMATC) providing two specialties in one weekend.

**BOB: Ch Andover Mayhem Magic**  
CH Andover Saltinsea Big Baby x CH Andover Dear Prudence.  
Owner/breeder/handler Jackie Gottlieb.

One great benefit of joining this weekend gave Wheaten exhibitors reserved, ringside grooming. In past years, all set-ups were in an adjacent building, requiring exhibitors and dogs to run through pouring rain or weather surpassing 90 degrees. Now, positioned in the exhibition building people had the convenience of preparing their dogs within view of their ring as well as offering the opportunity to watch other breeds easily. The RMATC provided hospitality Friday and raffled a stunning all-terrier quilt which appraisers valued at over $3,000. No longer were terrier breeders separated by buildings; instead they were brought together in celebration of their dogs.

The day began with Sweepstakes judging. Karen Sanders had an entry of 11 puppies – two dogs and nine bitches. She awarded Best in Sweepstakes to **Haldane Running On Empty** from the 6-9 bitch class. Best of Opposite Sex went to **Haldane You Love the Thunder**, littermate to the winner. The winner continued a great day when she took a Group One in the Sweeps group, again under Karen Sanders.

**BOS: GCH Acacia’s Bat Out O’Hel**  
CH Ellora Bastian x CH Acacia’s One Hot Mama  
Bred by Barb Smith. Co-owned by Barb Smith and Lisa Lopez.

Puppy energy held up as the class judging began immediately after Sweepstakes. Judge Gary L. Doerge carefully judged his entry of 28: five dogs, 16 bitches, five dog specials and two bitch specials. In the classes Doerge chose Haldane You Love the Thunder as Winners Dog and Best of Winners; Reserve Winners dog went to Blessing Sweet Companion. Doerge awarded the four point major in bitches to Trigo’s Relantago while Reserve Winners Bitch was Blessing Sweet Symmetry. Next followed a lovely class of Best of Breed dogs. When judging was finished,

**WD/BW: Haldane You Love The Thunder**  
Breeder: Tim Smith & Sarah Holbrook.  
CH Whimdancer Heart Like A Wheel x CH Haldane Back Stage Pass. Owner/handler: Tim Smith.
GCH BOS: GCH Acacia’s Bat Out O’ Hel topped the entry winning Best of Breed. Following her as Best of Opposite Sex was CH Andover Mayhem Magic. CH Stratford Top Brass received Select Dog and CH Stratford Let Them Eat Cake was Select Bitch.

It was one specialty down, one to go, and then the final day: supported entry at the Evergreen Kennel Club Show on Sunday.

Judging began again at the Greater Denver Specialty Show on Saturday with breeder/owner/handler Louise Bishoff doing the honors as she judged four puppy dogs and nine puppy bitches. As her Best is Sweeps winner, Bishoff chose Haldane Don’t You Loose Your Lip On Me from the 12-18 bitch class. Right behind her came Haldane You Love the Thunder as Best of Opposite Sex.

The fun continued as the puppies again entered the ring with Randy Garren judging.

Repeating his win from the previous day, Haldane You Love the Thunder won Winners Dog and Best of Winners. Cuilinn Going Pro received Reserve Winners Dog. Cuilinn Purple Heart garnered the Winners Bitch points. And Reserve went to Lismore the World According to Me. This day Garren named CH Andover Mayhem Magic as his Best of Breed Winner, GCH Acacia’s Bat Out O’Hel Best of Opposite Sex. Receiving both AOM and Select awards were GCH Doubloon’s Salt of the Earth (d) and new champion, Trigo’s Relantago (b). Dinner, silent auction and raffle returned to the Bunkhouse on the show grounds where exhibitors and guests celebrated two days of specialty shows. The Greater Denver will again join the RMATC and the Evergreen Kennel Club for its Specialty in 2011.

**Judge Randy Garren’s Critique of The GDSCWTC Specialty**

Judging the GDSCWTC was a pleasure and an honor, especially as a provisional judge. I was pleased with the overall quality and condition of the entries. My Winners Dog and eventual Best of Winners was a very young man from the Bred-By-Exhibitor class. He is a square puppy with a wonderful attitude, nice size on the day, proper coat for his young age, beautiful color and the natural tail was no problem for me. The Winner’s Bitch appeared from the 12-18 month class. She has a nice outline, good coat, and moved soundly. The Best of Breed went to a very balanced dog, properly coated, good legs, nice size with a tremendous attitude. I must confess there were a few details that bothered me. Some of the entries were too tall and/or just “too much dog” for my taste. Also, I had more than one coat that was plush rather than “silky with a gentle wave” as is described in the standard, and there were a couple with “sooty” traces.

I wish to thank the club so very much for having me judge. I hope the experience was as positive for everyone else as it was for me!

**WB: Cuilinn Purple Heart.**
Breeder/owner/handler: Holly Million. CH Ellora Footloose Icon x Cuilinn 007


**RWB: Lismore The World According to Me.**
Photo unavailable
Greater Denver Sweeps Commentary  
by Louise Bishoff

This year I had the honor of judging Sweepstakes at The Greater Denver Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club Regional Specialty. I want to first thank the club for this honor and for the WONDERFUL hospitality they showed me. This was my first trip to this specialty and hopefully it won’t be my last.

My entry was 3 dogs and 8 bitches. The entry was quite lovely and that made my job very difficult (in a good way). I was presented with many undocked tails which I thought would be problematic for me; however, I found that not to be the case. I had some very lovely coats, good bites and quite a few lovely movers. Most of the entry was square in outline. I did see some rears that were still a little close behind. Several entries had lovely side movement and appeared to float along.

My first class of dogs was the 6-9 month class. The entry was what a later found out were littermates. Both boys had undocked tails and lovely silky wavy coats. The winner was Haldane You Love The Thunder. He was a lovely dog with wonderful attitude and movement. His littermate was just a little less confident, but a lovely boy too. The class winner went on to be my Best of Opposite in Sweeps.

The next class was Junior Dogs, 12-18 months. This class had a singleton entry, Cuilinn Going Pro. This boy had a lovely square outline. His coat was of the Irish type and was a little crisp. His movement was lovely. He was a bit naughty for his handler who I found out later was his owner, and it was her first time in the ring. She did very well showing a very energetic boy, and they made my decision difficult.

Now on to the lovely bitches. My first class had an entry of two. These girls I would find out when reviewing the catalog afterwards were littermates to the boys. The winner was Haldane Running On Empty. She displayed a much higher level of confidence then her sister. Again lovely coats and breed type. These puppies showed unbelievably well considering they were 6 months and 5 days old on the day of the show.

The next class was my 9-12 month puppy bitches. My winner was Andover Solista. This bitch is quite a handful. She was a very square moderate bitch. She was a close runner up for Best In Sweeps. The other two bitches were very nice as well. One was experiencing a little performance anxiety, but we took our time and did our best to give this lovely young lady a positive experience.

My final class is where I found my Best in Sweepstakes winner. Haldane Oh Baby Don’t You Loose Your Lip On Me. This girl was stunning. She had a lovely wavy coat, fantastic movement and great expression. This young lady really had gorgeous breed type. She never took a misstep or at least none that I was aware of.

As a breeder I was very pleased with my overall entry. I see our breed moving in the correct direction. My decision was not an easy one and that pleases me. It is nice when your final line up offers up several animals that you would want to take home with you. Thank you to the club and to all the exhibitors that brought me such a wonderful entry.


Ann Skogerboe and Zephyr  
(CH Heirloom Back on Track UD) 
the only SCWT team invited to this year’s  
Obedience Invitational  
Congratulations Ann!

John Unruh and Kylie  
(CH MACH3 Heirloom Truly Irresistible RN OF)  
invited to the Agility Invitational  
their 5th time competing in this event  
Way to Go John!

Jackie Tucker and Tige  
(CH Heirloom T&Ts Tige in a Shoe CD RN AX MXJ NF)  
invited to the Agility Invitational  
for the first time  
Super Job Jackie!

We are thrilled to have so many dogs reach such pinnacles of achievement with titles at both ends of their names.  
We are deeply grateful to you all.

Robert Bergman and Patrice Chevalier  
www.HeirloomWheatens.com
As life returns to normal and the wonderful times at our 2010 National Specialty become memories, we have the opportunity in this issue of Benchmarks to reflect on the good times. The judges’ critiques and the win pictures tell one side of the story. Truly our dogs are The Champions! Equally important are all the members of our Club and the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this event something we will all remember – We Are The Champions!

Emily Holden and her team of volunteers provided us with a fun-filled event – beginning with the performance competition at Kimberton and culminating with the Sunday evening dinner with the delightful theme of “Who Let the Dogs Out?” Our new hotel, The Dolce, proved to be a winner. I found the hotel staff to be very welcoming and accommodating. The banquet, the Sunday dinner and breakfasts were delicious.

Each guest of the Specialty was greeted with a Welcome bag – the contents, collected throughout the year, proved to be practical, thoughtful and delightful. My personal favorite was the musical CD that Emily created. Luckily only my dog heard me singing to the music while driving to and from the show sites.

The boutique presented a challenge – with so many must-have items. (Just how much money can you withdraw at the ATM in one day?) Thanks to all who helped organize and sell items. This buying spree added to the memories.

During the boutique and dinner, it was a treat to see our award winners’ presentation and to see photos of all the past National Specialty winners on display. We met the Rescue Family of the Year and heard the triumphant story of Sophie, a Wheaten rescue, who stole our hearts and brought us to tears.

Our new trophies are works of art – originals by Wendall August. Special thanks to Gary Vlachos and Bill Behan for this find. Our ring stewards and ring assistants were wonders of organization.

The fundraisers were terrific – Wheaten mats and a handmade Wheaten quilt donated by Emily for the raffle. It was won by Karen Mueller. The original art work from renowned artist, Margaret Foxmoore, enjoyed spirited bidding with Michael DeCarlo taking the prize home.
There are many people who helped to make our Specialty the grand event that it was. As Specialty Chair, Emily Holden hosted an event which surpassed all expectations. We thank Emily and her many volunteers (listed below) for an event to remember! We also owe thanks to the Board for their support and contributions.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Bonnie Ivler</td>
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<td>Gerard Thompson</td>
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New Performance Trophies MCKC 2010
SCWTCA 2010 Sweepstakes Commentary
by Dana Frady

6-9 dogs
First #10, Haldane You Love the Thunder. Pretty coated dog, high on leg. Clean head with nice ears. He covered the ground on the side.

Second #25, Stratford Notorious At Lismore. Nice moderate dog, good balance and coat. He was flying his front a bit, but nice rear.

Third #33, Whindancer Sunny Side Of The Street. Pretty coat and color, nice ears and clean head. Looked longer on the move and not as much drive.

9-12
First went to #47, Star Kaler Four Twenty. Pretty Irish dog. Nice length of neck and into shoulder blend. He keeps an outline as he moves around.

Second #15, Starlight Texas Ranger Of O’Klee. Pretty outline and type. Nice neck blend into shoulders. Thicker coat and didn’t use his rear as well.


Fourth # 21, Lil’Town Winter’s Solstice Lullaby Of Ardnacassa. Irish dog, nice coat and head. Although nice in front, was straighter in rear and more restricted.

12-15

Second #7, Bryr Rose Symbol of Paris. Also moderate dog, very typey with a beautiful head piece. Carried his outline on the go, He tended to cross in the front and rear on the down and back.

Third #45, Cadenza Opus One Capriccio. Nice head and ears. He was a bit shy this day and didn’t use his tail well.

15-18
First #27, Lochlinear Gleanngay Quick As A Wink. Pretty typey dog. Nice head, neck and shoulder. Moderate in size and balanced on the go around.

Second #39, Whindancer Little Ball Of Fire. Pretty head and coat. Moved well in the front but fell off a bit in rear and tail.

Third #41, Avalyn’s Bearenstain Bear. had a pretty coat and color, was a bit unsure today.

6-9 Bitches
First #10, Orion Trebol Hot Like Me. This was our grashopper hunter. Nice moderate puppy, covered the ground easily. Kept her outline on the move.


Third #44, Bon Aquarel Kiss Of Kaler. Irish girl full of attitude. Pretty ears and head, good expression. A little straighter in rear than first and second.

Fourth #52, Kilcrennan Mary’s American Idol. Pretty coat and color. Nice neck and shoulders. Wasn’t using herself.

BISS: Whindancer’s Sweet Dreams Are Made of This.
CH Whindancer’s Heart Like A Wheel x
CH Whindancer’s Crazy Little Thing Called Luv.
Owners/Breeders: Susan Ratliffe & Art Miller & Abby Kochan.

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Owners/Breeders: Susan Ratliffe & Art Miller & Abby Kochan.
9-12 Bitches

First #42, Baroque You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet. Nice moderate bitch. Square in outline and nice neck to shoulder blend. Pretty coat and color. Balanced as she moved.

Second #22, Blessing Sweet Symmetry. Nice typey bitch. Pretty head and expression. Up on leg and kept her out-line on the go around. Didn’t use front as well as #1.

Third #66, Star Bright Mystic Gal. Pretty Irish bitch. Lots of expression with pretty ears. Nice neck and outline on the go around.

Fourth #46, Honeywheats Genie In A Bottle. Although very unsure, she had a nice head and neck to shoulder blend.

12-15 Bitches

First #40, Haldane Oh Baby Don’t You Loose Your Lips On Me. Pretty coat and color, nice head and expression. Holds herself well on the go around.

Second #32, Dromara’s Ginger Snap. Up on leg and good coming and going. Pretty head and expression. Tends to look long on the go around.

Third #54, Bryr Rose Pop Champagne. Moderate, typey outline, pretty coat and headpiece. Crosses coming and going. Keeps her outline on the go around.

Fourth #24, Cuillin Purple Heart. Pretty head and coat. Covered ground well. Straighter rear and crosses a bit.

15-18 Bitches

First # 50 Whindancers Sweet Dreams Are Made Of This. My BISS winner. Moderate and sound. Covered the ground with confidence and ease. Pretty coat and color. Neck and shoulder blend were nice.

#12, Orla Fire Of The Hearth. Irish bitch with an attitude. Pretty coat and head piece. Crossed in rear but good in front.

Third #36, Bendacht Desire. Nice moderate puppy. Pretty head and coat. Didn’t seem to drive as well as first two.

Fourth #30, Lil’Town Wayward Whind. Irish bitch with a lovely coat. Pretty head and neck. Straight in rear and fell off a bit in tail.

It was a nice surprise to learn the BISS winner was a grand-daughter of a bitch I gave Sweeps to in St Louis years ago. Nicely handled and presented.

Overall it seems as though the mouths were better and I didn’t see the gray in the coats. Heads and necks are strong. Ears are still in the works. Rears are a mess. As well as tailsets. There were what I considered typey dogs, but was disappointed when they moved. Crossing over front and rears. Side movements appeared good, but coming and going was disappointing. Finding that happy medium between “stand still” pretty and “moving pretty” is difficult, but we need to find it. I enjoyed the experience and hope everyone there did too. I thank you all for entering and giving me this opportunity. It was an honor.
It was an honor to be voted by the membership of SCWTCA, Inc. to judge our National Specialty and I thank all the members who placed their confidence in me. Thank you also for the wonderful Wheaten sculpture which serves as a perfect memento of a perfect day. Before I begin discussing our four-legged friends, however, there are some two-legged folks who were truly the Champions of the weekend and deserve to be recognized.

The Grand Champion awards go to Emily Holden and her entire team who put together a wonderful host of events, most of which I only heard about, but the post-show hospitality Harvey and I attended with the grand finale of songs was a perfect ending to a fabulous Specialty. The Select awards go to my sensational stewards who kept me on time and on track, Rosie Berg, Holly Craig, and the inimitable Pam and Bob Tinnelly, and a first AOM to Sally Sotirovich for posting the awards for ringside to see. The final AOM goes to Mother Nature, for blessing us with sunshine, blue skies and perfect temperatures.

My goal was for the experience to be fun for everyone and to make our exhibitors and their dogs, whether already a Champion or not yet, feel like a Champion that day. Montgomery is about more than just getting a ribbon. It is a showcase for each dog like no other.

Having attended Specialties of other ‘ramp’ breeds, I decided that the ramp would be a wonderful way to eliminate the vagaries of uneven terrain or long grass and, more importantly, to put each dog ‘on a pedestal’ for all to see. When I saw our ring, which was covered with more weeds than grass and poorly mowed at that, I was doubly glad I had made that decision. Happily, the dogs had no problem with the ramp and the comments later from the exhibitors were most positive. This same rationale prompted my asking each Special to enter the ring one at a time as Bob, my invaluable steward, called out its armband number so each dog was “introduced” and would then go half way around, free stack for the ringside to see and then continue to its place in line.

Before I began evaluating my entry, I had hoped my choices would come down to the finer points of the breed, but, unfortunately, it became apparent early in the day that I would not have that luxury. There is...
still such variation in type and in presentation that the underpinnings of our breed – the things that make a Wheaten a Wheaten – are not yet universal and needed to be underscored. This meant that, reluctantly, in some decisions, soundness was necessarily sacrificed to type.

Incidentally, a new – but certainly not improved – style of trimming seems to have evolved in which the body coat from the topline to halfway down the side is cut short and the bottom half is left longer to give the required “flow” to the coat. This is definitely contrary to what we authors of the Breed Standard intended. Please, people, this ‘half and half’ style is not to be construed as a virtue to be emulated; rather I considered it barely acceptable in exhibits where otherwise overall quality merited an award.

Blocky topskulls; weak, snipey muzzles; roller-coaster toplines; low tailsets; narrow fronts; extremes in size, make, or presentation have no place in our breed. Sadly, in some cases, the lovely details we so appreciate had to bow to the essentials. Wheatens are a well-balanced, MODERATE breed; dogs 18-19”, bitches 17-18”; SQUARE in outline – which presumes a level topline accompanied by a high tailset with shelf behind. Please note that the tail should NOT be the end of the dog! Ours is a happy, sporting terrier who shows himself gaily; has a moderately long, rectangular head; and a soft, silky, gently waving coat of clear warm wheaten color that FLOWS when the dog is in motion. These are our basics, the key elements of Wheaten type you will read repeatedly in the remarks below. I hope it was obvious that these virtues were the criteria, wherever possible, upon which my awards were made.

Puppy Dog 6-9 Months:

1st. #53 Reyem’s Saddle Up N Ride. Square, balanced, moderate, lovely blend of neck into well laid back shoulders, angles at both ends. A smooth transition from one end to the other. Beautiful, dark eye with correct expression; equal proportions of muzzle to backskull. At not quite 7 months, hopefully he will grow into his somewhat larger ears. Silky coat of warm honey. Held his topline as he moved freely and gracefully around the ring and down and back. An eyecatching youngster who clearly has a high opinion of himself.

2nd. #79 Whindancer Sunny Side of the Street. Ears a bit fancy, breaking above the level of the skull, but head is rectangular and eyes are dark reddish brown and well placed. Smooth blend of neck into clean shoulders. His undocked tail properly set on high, upright 90 degrees for the first half, then curving a bit far forward. Beautiful silky coat that flowed as he moved soundly around the ring.

3rd. #65 Stratford Notorious at Lismore. Moderate, square youngster with short, level back. Rectangular head with strong muzzle to balance topskull and correct expression. Needs higher tailset; this combined with lack of shelf behind the tail detracts from his outline and cost him a higher placement. Proper silky coat.

4th. #33 Finley Denali High And Mighty. A square youngster who needs more angulation front and rear and a higher tailset. Proper silky coat.
**Puppy Dogs 9-12 Months:**

1st. #57 Modny Style International Intrigue. Square in outline, correct angles both ends; tailset could be higher. Balanced, all of a piece, a promising youngster who moved easily around the ring with a flowing coat.

2nd. #75 Honeywheat’s Halo of Legends. Similar to the 1st place dog in type. Head is rectangular but doesn’t appear so due to its trim. Level topline, crosses in front and needs training. I forgave his puppy antics in favor of his breed type -- still a “work in progress.”

3rd. #105 Star Kaler Four Twenty. Lovely Irish coat. Smooth blend of neck into shoulders. Well angulated rear with high tailset. A bit off square; needs more bone and better rear extension as he goes round the ring.

4th. #59 Sheelin Greentree Lucky Charm. A square, more heavily boned dog who hopefully will not coarsen with age. Blocky topskull needs more neck and elegance which might be achieved with judicious thinning. Lovely coat and color. His short, well let down hocks and a powerful, driving rear rarely seen in our breed garnered him a placement.

**12-18 Month Dogs:**

1st. #9 Bryr Rose Symbol of Paris. Oozes breed type! Moderate, square, balanced, well laid back shoulders, equal angles at both ends, high set tail, soft, silky flowing coat. Correct head proportions. Lovely sidegait but his front is not his fortune. Nevertheless, his beautiful type carried him to the win.

2nd. #39 Legend Déjà Vu All Over Again. Square in outline, plenty of bone which hopefully won’t coarsen with age. Lovely blend of neck into shoulders. Could use better tailset.

3rd. #101 Mariner’s From Russia With Love. Big. A square dog with correct outline and angles. His soft but cottony coat cost him a higher placement, and grooming on the head should be corrected to eliminate the “conehead” appearance.

4th. #97 Cadenza Opus One Capriccio. Lovely coat and color. Needs more bone and better topline and tailset. Moderate dog with lovely, small ears. Would benefit from ring training.

**Bred By Exhibitor Dogs:**

1st #71 Lochinlear Gleenngay Quick As A Wink. Lovely breed type. Moderate, balanced, level topline and correct angles front and rear. Rectangular head of equal proportions. Not clever in front on the down and back.

2nd #45 Haldane You Love the Thunder. GORGEOUS silky flowing coat and color. Level topline and undocked tail with the correct set on. Would like to see a smaller ear. A sound mover in all directions, he “pooped out” at the end and was determined to forego a first place award!

3rd #37 Seanacy Walk The Line. A somewhat off-square dog with a correct topline and tailset. However, his blocky topskull gives him a coarser head and his cottony coat cost him a higher placement.

4th #7 Amaden Bugger Vance. Moderate, nice breed type with a clean head of proper proportions. Tail is set too far back and his sidegait lacks strong reach and drive. Correct flowing coat.

**Open Dogs:**

1st #25 Wicklow’s Six Sigma. Square dog with lots of bone. High tailset and angles at both ends; true rear going away. Head is a bit coarse and could use a smaller ear. Lovely flowing coat.

2nd #41 Derryhumma Eureka Stereotype. Just off-square, he needs more neck to balance length of back. Strong, level topline, proper rear angulation, high tailset and butt behind the tail. Blocky topskull out of sync with weaker muzzle. Correct soft, flowing coat. Pressed #25 hard for first place.

3rd #81 Whindancer’s Handsome Accident. Level topline but off-square and tail is off the end. Could use a bit more leg. Very silky coat. A bit unsure of himself this day.
4th #77 Wheatenbrook’s Mr. Bojangles. Correct outline and nice breed type, but lacks bone and substance. Weaker loin adversely affects his sidegait.

Winners Dog:

Reyem’s Saddle Up N Ride, my 6-9 month puppy! Everything about him just fits. Correct headpiece with parallel planes and strength of muzzle to balance his topskull and a dark eye with great terrier expression, even at this young age. Square, balanced, beautiful blend of neck into shoulders, correct angles at both ends, an easy go-er who never put a foot down wrong, crowned with a glorious coat. Happy, confident, interested in his surroundings and stood his ground on the spar. This puppy would not be denied on this day. Let’s hope he continues to develop as he promises.

Reserve Winners Dog:

Bryr Rose Symbol of Paris from the 12-18 class. This youngster has breed type galore – an ideal Wheaten outline – moderate, square with a dead level topline and high tailset. A lovely head with equal proportions of muzzle to backskull, dark brown eye with proper earset and expression and clear warm wheaten colored coat. On the stack and in his sidegait, he is just what a Wheaten should be. Unfortunately, his front movement was what denied him the Winners ribbon, but he is a very worthy dog in his own right.

Puppy Bitches 6-9 Months:

1st #94 Vintage Kaylynn Calico Blue. Lovely balance. Square with a bang-up tail and lovely coat and color. Moved gracefully around the ring. Would like to see a smaller ear and a different head trim to give a more rectangular appearance.

2nd #78 Orion Trebol Hot Like Me. Another square, balanced bitch with a level topline and correct high tailset. Head a bit small to suit her – would benefit from longer topskull and muzzle. Feminine, lovely layback of shoulder, well let down hocks and correct coat and color. Her gay tail detracts from an otherwise nice outline.

3rd #126 Kilcrennan Mary’s American Idol. Lovely head and expression, medium size ear; decent angles front and rear; correct amount of bone for her size. Irish coat and an undocked tail that curls over to touch her back. Her longer loin and low tailset cost her a higher placement.

4th #122 Whindancer’s Lady Gaga. Beautiful, flowing Irish coat with proper, gentle waves, she moved well around the ring. Longer back with undocked tail that curves too far forward. Pencilling around her eyes makes them look bigger than they actually are.

Puppy Bitches 9-12 Months:

1st. #50 Blessing Sweet Symmetry. A lovely bitch, moderate, square in outline, all of a piece. Moderately long head with proper expression, smaller ears set level with topskull, graceful reach of neck, clean shoulders with equal angles front and rear, a level topline with butt behind the tail. A pleasure to place her first in this class.

2nd. #114 Michaleen’s Innisfree White O’Morn. Another typey bitch, square in outline with a solid topline and correct tailset. Not quite as sound as my first place bitch; could use better rear angulation and a bit more bone, but a nicely coated, very feminine package overall.
3rd. #162 Star Bright Mystic Gal. Gorgeous, silky Irish coat! Square, with smooth blend of neck into nicely laid back shoulders. Her fancy ears are too high set and straighter stifles didn’t match front assembly.

4th. #116 Honeywheats Genie in a Bottle. Level topline and high tailset, nice bend of stifles and plenty of bone for her size, but her shorter neck and longer back were out of balance. With some training, her handler’s job would have been easier.

Puppy Bitches 12 – 18 Months:

1st. #48 Saltsea Weaving Magic. A square bitch with a dark eye, but a blocky topline and weaker muzzle. Level topline, short loin and high tailset, smooth blend of neck into nicely laid back shoulders. Moved freely around the ring with strong reach and drive.

2nd. #38 Kennally Moonstone. Another square bitch, with nice sidegait and butt behind her tail. Lacks desired shoulder layback and smooth blend of neck into shoulder. Could use more bone. Her undocked tail is set a bit low but carried well. Lovely, soft, flowing coat.

3rd. #128 Bryr Rose Pop Champagne. Cobby bitch with plenty of bone for her moderate size. Cheeky backskull, larger ears, and soft but cottony coat. Correct level topline and tailset.

4th. #76 Legend Berra of Good Tidings. A big bitch, though balanced for her size. Almost square outline, level topline, tailset could be higher. She needs a smaller ear, but a very nice headpiece otherwise.

Bred By Exhibitor Bitches: By far, the strongest class with the greatest depth of quality, which is as it should be.

1st. #110 Baroque You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet. Beautiful breed type! Balanced, feminine, square, moderately long head that could be a tad cleaner at the cheeks, but beautiful expression, complete with correct earset. Nice bone in a moderate size. Neck blends smoothly into her clean shoulders, level topline, short back, but behind the tail, equal angles at both ends. Moves gracefully around the ring with a soft, silky, properly presented flowing coat. A sound, beautiful package, she well deserved her first place in this lovely class.

2nd. #134 Atas Claire De Lune. A bigger yet feminine bitch, square in outline, rectangular head of equal proportions, but ears a bit large. Smooth blend of neck into clean, nicely laid back shoulders and a high set tail with butt behind.

3rd. #28 Kinsale’s Prissy Priscilla. Happy, confident bitch. Head tends toward square rather than rectangular and her eye is a bit large rather than medium in size. Longer in loin but overall outline is correct. Tailset could be higher, but a sound mover with a nice sidegait.

4th. #102 Lismore The World According To Me. Square outline, feminine, with correct head proportions and expression. She needs better layback and a shelf behind her tail. True mover on the down and back but lacks drive from the side. Lovely coat.

Open Bitches:

1st. #92 Kaylynn’s Hayden Is A Love Blossom. Moderate, feminine, square with nice bone. Correct length of head and expression. Smooth blend of neck, strong topline and tailset, crowned with a flowing coat. Better layback of shoulder and more bend of stifles would give her less restricted reach and drive.

2nd. #82 Bendacht Desire. A moderate bitch, feminine and balanced. A stronger muzzle would complement topline and tailset. Gait is a bit bouncy, and lacks shelf behind tail but level topline, correct coat and overall balance were pleasing to the eye.

3rd. #132 Greentree Skellig’s Stir It Up. A bigger bitch, square in outline with plenty of bone and a level topline. Blocky topline out of balance with muzzle. Driving rear with short hocks and good extension and flexion. Lovely coat.

4th. #64 Greentree Rising Star. Moderate bitch with a dead level topline that held true on the go-round. Her head could be longer to balance her body and coat is not as silky as it should be, but she is sound coming and going.
Winners Bitch and Best of Winners:

Baroque You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet from the Bred By class. Oozing breed type, this sound, compact young lady is just what a Wheaten bitch should be. Everything flows including her correctly trimmed coat as she moves gracefully around the ring with good reach and drive. She is happy, alert and utterly feminine. A pleasure to reward her this day.

WB/BOW: Baroque You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet.
By CH Stratford Top Priority – CH Marquee’s If It Ain’t Baroque. Breeder/Owner: Christy Weagant

Reserve Winners Bitch:

Blessing Sweet Symmetry. Similar to WB in type but not quite as compact, she is moderate, square, with correct headplanes and feminine expression. Beautiful neckset into shoulder, level topline, and an easy go-er moving freely and gracefully with proper flowing coat.

Veterans: On a personal note, I hope SCWTCA members rethink the decision to reward only first place in Veterans. At our National Specialty, it would have been nice to award 2nd place and a rosette to another of our “old timers”, but most reluctantly in each class, I had to let the only other Veteran walk out empty-handed.

1st in Veteran Bitches: #70 CH Grian Annie O’Klee, CD RE. Another easy go-er who covered ground with smooth efficient strides. Rectangular head, well-laid back shoulder; somewhat off-square but a level topline and used herself well.

Awards of Merit: In no particular order.

#46 CH Michaleen’s Song O’Morningstar. A cobby, square bitch with a rectangular headpiece with equal length of muzzle to backskull, small ears that she used well, wouldn’t want her any bigger but proper bone for her size, level topline and butt behind her highset tail.

#89 CH Greentree Keepsake Tobasco Cat. A square dog I awarded BOS at the SCWT Association of Canada National Specialty in May. He is square, with a rectangular head, good bone and fabulous topline. His coat, while soft, is not as silky as it should be, but he covers ground with strong reach and drive and is overall, a pleasing, masculine package.

#99 CH Gleanngay Legend of the Grail. Very correct breed type. Upstanding, substantial stallion of a dog, square in outline, good bone for his size, strong back with level topline, clean, rectangular head with correct earset. His front is not his fortune and his coat should be silkier, but he is alert and confident and uses himself to great advantage.

#68 GCH Diamonds Breakfast At Tiffany’s. Feminine bitch, lovely headpiece with flat topskull, medium, slightly almond eyes, fancy ears set too high on her head, but she moves freely and gracefully on the go round with a lovely, silky flowing coat.

#160 CH Star Shadowlands of Aslan. A moderate, square bitch. She could use better length of head but she is feminine with a lovely outline, short loin, level topline and proper bone topped with a silky flowing Irish coat.

Select Dog: #47 Bonney Five Guns And A Rose. A masculine handsome young male, very typey. More substantial but with no suggestion of coarseness, clean headplanes, strong muzzle to compliment his backskull, square in outline, high tailset with shelf behind and gorgeous flowing coat and color. Not quite the reach and drive, but he pushed the Best of Breed dog hard.
Select Bitch: #8 CH Avalon’s Mocuishle’s Legacy.
Feminine picture, correct rectangular head with small, well set ears. Moderate bitch that shows herself well, moves gracefully around the ring crowned with a silky flowing coat of proper length.

Best of Opposite: #144 CH Frolic Freya Of Fenris.
A moderate, feminine, square bitch with a lovely dark, almond-shaped eye and medium size, well placed ears and great expression. Correct high tailset with butt behind, needs a bit more bend of stifles. Silky flowing coat and a very typey representative of the breed.

Best of Breed: #8 CH Dundalk Put Me In Coach.
So much is right about this dog. Balanced, moderate in size yet masculine, square in outline, proper rectangular head with equal proportions and a strong muzzle to balance backskull. Almond eye set fairly wide apart. His ears could be smaller, but he uses them well. Smooth blend of neck into clean, well laid back shoulders. Level topline with strong back and short loin that holds on the go-round, tail well set on with shelf behind, bend of stifles matches front angulation, hocks well let down. Happy and interested in his surroundings, he stood his ground confidently on the spar. This is an honest dog, not a flashy dog; reflecting correct Wheaten type and that elusive quality that I like to describe as being moderate without being ordinary. As he moved easily and freely around the ring, his silky coat flowing, he would not be denied.

As I reflected on my placements in writing this, it’s interesting to note that BOB, BOW, BOS, Select Dog and Bitch, and an AOM all have a west coast connection. From the time I judged the Specialty at Great Western in 2004 to the NorCal Specialty in April 2008 and continuing to this day, the quality in our breed still lies west of the Mississippi. Harvey said then, and it still holds true, “The west coast has got it all together.” Congratulations to the breeders there and all over who strive to preserve correct Wheaten type.

In conclusion, I hope that the exhibitors and the spectators enjoyed the day as much as I did and were satisfied that each dog was showcased to its maximum potential. Having been involved with Wheatens since our earliest days in Miscellaneous, I’ve witnessed the evolution of this breed I love. Our development as a breed has been one of fits and starts, the most recent being that of breeding for health issues alone at the expense of breed type which has set us back quite a bit. I sincerely hope that my choices made a clear statement about what we need in this breed, that my winners will go on to make a positive contribution to preserving the essence of Wheaten type and that the dogs that were rewarded will put a positive stamp on the breed as we move forward. As a breeder judge, that would be my greatest reward.
SCWTCA 2010 Select Winners and Award of Merit Recipients

SD: Bonney Five Guns and a Rose
By CH Starlight Master of the Game
CH Bonney Derryhumma Whiskey Neat. Dog
Owner: Mallory & Irv Sobel & Bonney Snyder.
Breeder – Bonney Snyder.

SB: CH Avalon Mocuishle’s Legacy
CH Legacy Wildwest Wildflower
Owner: Sandra & Glenn Amorosia
Breeder: Sandra & Glenn Amorosia & Jon Caliri

AOM: GCH Gleanngay Legend of the Grail
CH Legacy the Grail – CH Gleanngay Quintilius. Dog.

AOM: GCH Michaleen’s Song O’Morningstar
CH Dundalk The Stroke of Midnight
CH Michaleen’s Song of Kerry. Bitch
Owner: Doreen Gordon & Pat Weir.
Breeders: Pat Weir & Margaret Shanner.

AOM: GCH Diamonds Breakfast at Tiffany’s
CH Greentree Fairy Tale Only Time Will Tell
CH Diamonds Magic Moments. Bitch
Breeder/Owner; Betty Ann Hillwig

AOM: CH Star Aslan of Shadowlands.
CH Aslan’s Blitzing Star – Star Dykstra In The Zone. Bitch.
Owners: Denise Daniel & Debbie Dykstra.
Breeder: Denise Daniel.

AOM: CH Greentree Keepsake Tabasco Cat. By CH Greentree Skellig’s Samba Par Ti – Greentree Preakness Clover. Dog.
Breeders/Owners: Shari Robinson & Beverly & Kevin McDonald.
SCWTCA 2010 CGC Test
by Suzanne Stone

We only had three takers for the SCWTCA CGC Test this year, but what we lacked in quantity, we made up in quality! All three Wheatens and handlers were exemplary Canine Good Citizens and passed the test with flying colors. We chose again to go outside for the test after Rally, and I administered the test under a big shady tree.

A fun time was had by all, and everyone went home knowing their dogs earned the designation of CGC, meaning that these dogs can be counted on to be well behaved in social situations.

Many obedience and agility dogs ironically would not pass this test. These dogs, some of which were performance dogs, had no problem!

I offer this test every year at the SCWTCA specialty after Obedience and Rally on Saturday, and would encourage those of you, especially with upcoming puppies, to start training now! This is by far to me the most important training our dogs can get. Having a well-mannered Wheaten is a beautiful thing and absolutely doable. Check out the AKC web site: http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/training_testing.cfm for the 10 parts of the test you need to pass to attain a CGC.

Many obedience clubs offer a CGC class (which even I, as an evaluator, took to get my Wheaten ready for the test).

Thanks to Connie Koehler again for her help and to all the CGC participants. Looking forward to more Wheaten Canine Good Citizens next year!

Suzanne Stone
CGC Evaluator
Looking for the perfect Holiday Gift?
Check out the 2011 SCWTCA Calendar
Available at www.scwtca.org

Check out some of the calendar feedback....
The 2011 calendar is great.
I think October 2011 is my favorite month! What a great calendar!
Just wanted you to know that I LOVE the calendars.
Thank YOU for putting together such a wonderful conglomeration of beautiful Wheatens!!!

- 13 Months, Jan 2011 – Jan 2012
- Full color photos
- Perfect for home or office
- Great gift for friends, family, breeders, new puppy homes
- Get yours now!

All proceeds benefit Wheaten Health
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America, Inc. Annual Award Winners

The following awards were presented at the 2009 SCWTCA Specialty at Montgomery County KC:

**Andover Challenge Trophy (Best of Breed)**
CH Doubloon’s Ultimate Player owned by Elena Landa

**Bryan McNamara Memorial Trophy** (Awarded to the owner of the winner of the Bred By Exhibitor Bitch class at the National Specialty Show at MCKC)
Sonya Urquhart for Marquee’s Tax Exchange

The following awards were presented at the Annual Meeting in October 2010:

**Best in Specialty Show Breeder Award** (awarded to BOB at MCKC)
Elena Landa for CH Doubloon’s Ultimate Player

**Everett Keller Memorial Trophy:** (WB at MCKC)
Dana Frady for Jendu Forever Free

**Mary Ann Dallas Award** (BW breeder at MCKC)
Dana Frady for Jendu Forever Free

**Maureen Holmes Memorial Trophy** (Breeders of BISS at MCKC)
Meg Ryan & Molly O’Connell for Lismore The Best of Both Worlds

**AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Medallion** (awarded to individual who deserves special recognition in the sport of purebred dogs, embodies the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, and has been an active and valued member of an AKC member club.)
Emily Holden

**Best in Show Award**
CH Doubloon’s Ultimate Player owned by Elena Landa

Mt. Baker KC – May 17, 2009
Coeur d’Alene Dog Fanciers – May 26, 2009

**CH Abby’s Postage Dhu O’Waterford “Casey” Award**
(awarded to the Wheaten who defeated the most Wheatens by going Best of Breed)
CH Doubloon’s Ultimate Player – 1169 Wheatens defeated

**The Amaden Trophy** (Wheaten bitch who defeated the most Wheatens by going BOB or BOS)
CH Doubloon’s Ultimate Player – 1203 Wheatens defeated

**Junior Showmanship Award**
Juliana McKamey handling Canopy Road’s Sundance
Festival owned by Bonne & Dennis Wirth & J&J McKamey

**Obedience Dog of the Year Award**
CH Heirloom’s Back on Track, UD owned by Ann Skogerboe, Patrice Chevalier & Robert Bergman:
Average Score = 194

**Versatility Dog Excellent Award**
CH Heirloom T&T Tige In A Shoe CD NA AX AXJ owned by Patrice Chevalier, Robert Bergman, Jacquelin Tucker & Arnold Tesnow

**Versatility Dog Award**
CH Geragold Kilronan OAP OJP NFP owned by Kathy Clarke

CH Hullabaloo The Rookie RN TD owned by Robert & Elaine Nerrie

CH Katdancer Ez Does It OAJ NJP NF owned by Lee Martin

**The Happy Jack Memorial Awards**

**UD Award Winners**
CH Heirloom Back on Track UD owned by Ann Skogerboe, Patrice Chevalier & Robert Bergman.

CH Gleanngay Keep the Faith VCD2 UD RA owned by Joanne & Chester Vogt & Gay Dunlap.

**CD Award Winners**
Orion Trebol Hot Off the Press VCDI RAE OAJ NAP owned by Betsy Geertson & Willie Rueda.
Sanddollars Christmas Melody CD RA AX AXJ NF owned by Mary Wright.

Lissadell Line Dancer CD RA owned by Eleanor Wong, Elaine Nerrie & Caroline Goldberg.

VanBeard’s Legally Blonde CD R owned by Ed & Cheryl Gallup & Kathleen Ostrander-Bowers.

Register of Merit (ROM) (Sires with at least 15 champion get and dams with at least 8 champion get)
CH Greentree Darcove Fairy Tale CD RN owned by Beverly & Kevin McDonald, Doris Pettracco & Dot Schider

Champion get through 2009
CH Burdigan’s Color My World
CH Burdigan’s Color Outside the Lines
CH Burdigan’s In Living Color
CH Burdigan’s She Dreams In Color
CH Canopy Road’s Prinze Charming
CH Coventry Once Upon a Time
CH Coventry’s Just in Time
CH Cuileann One Hot Minute
CH Greentree Clover Ginger Rose
CH Ltd Edition Blake O’Greentree
CH Moonstruck Dreams Can Come True
CH Moonstruck Happily Ever After
CH O’Lorcan Golden Gaelic Darcy
CH O’Lorcan Golden Gaelic Penny

CH Gleanngay Holiday “Doc” Award (to the top Wheaten sire who produces the most champion get during the year, with a minimum of 5 get)
CH Edgewood Ruffian
CH Greentree Jendu Tabu Red Heels
CH Kaylynn’s Mathilda Goes a Walzing
CH Lovesong’s Tomorrow
CH Lovesong’s Top O’The Momin’

Wheaten Ambassador Award (presented to the Wheaten Terrier that has made a difference in the community with an emphasis on community service and diplomacy through therapy work and/or exceptional fundraising activities.)
Villa Rosa Vel Dorilla O’Kaler *Dharma*

SCWTCA Rescue Family of the Year
Nancy and John DiIani

John and Nancy did an incredible service to a wonderful dog. They have briefly shared their experience with Sophie. What they have not told you are the nights and days of tender, loving care they gave Sophie. She would not have recovered without the TLC they gave her. Thanks to those members of the SCWTCA Board that voted to spend the money on Sophie’s surgeries which most certainly saved her life. Dr. Wendy Beers provided her voice of approval.

In July Sophie was relinquished by her owner to Rescue. She had been locked in the basement. She had little hair, black oily skin and puss running from her ears.

She was placed with Nancy and John DiLani in MA who immediately started trying to make her comfortable. -- baths, vet visits, meds, over and over. After months of time, effort, love, and money, the TECA Ear Surgery was approved by the Board.

Sophie recovered from the surgery and her new family drove through two snow storms to pick her up. Lynne and Dick Eckhoff adopted Sophie. Nancy and John cried, but knew she was going to a wonderful home.

Lynne and Dick now cherish her spirit and love.

Sophie!
Presenting Our First Grand Champions
The Ladies

How To Count Grand Championship Points at AKC Dog Shows

With the AKC’s newest designation now available, it is time to understand how to count points to achieve the Grand Championship (GCH) title. The rules are similar to those pertaining to an AKC championship (CH).

- you use the point schedule in the area in which you show
- points are calculated according to the number of dogs competing, NOT dogs that are entered but are absent, disqualified, dismissed or excused
- Non-regular class dogs are counted in determining points
- Dogs must have achieved their AKC championships to be eligible for the GCH title
- Judges may elect to award OR to withhold GCH points even if the dog is BOB or BOS

The Title:
- Dogs must receive 25 championship points to earn the GCH
- Dogs must earn three majors
- The majors must be won under three different judges
- At least one other judge must award some of the remaining points
- At least one Champion of Record must be defeated at three different shows
And The Gents

![GCH Gleanngay Legend of the Grail](image1)
![GCH Doubloon’s Salt of the Earth](image2)
![GCH Dundalk Put Me In Coach](image3)

![GCH Greentree Moonstruck Mambo Man](image4)

![GCH Gemstone Lontree Star Studded](image5)

**GCH Sho-Well’s Bree’s Toy Boy** – not pictured

### Best of Breed:

- If a judge elects to award GCH points to his BOB winner, whether the BOB is a dog or a bitch, the points are determined by the total number of dogs entered and shown that day, including the BOB winner.

- If there is a total of 13 dogs and bitches shown in ALL classes, the BOB is given the number of points determined by the point schedule in that area. For example, if 13 total dogs equal a 4 point major, then the BOB winner is awarded four points.

### Best of Opposite Sex

- If a judge elects to award GCH points to his BOS winner, all dogs of the same sex are counted, class dogs and champions including the BOS winner.

### Select Dog (SD) and Select Bitch (SB)

- These are new terms created for the Grand Championship program. It is entirely up to the judge’s discretion to choose a Select Dog and/or a Select Bitch.

- SD/SB count all dogs competing in all classes plus Specials of the same sex and then subtract 2. (You are subtracting the BOB and BOS as SD/SB have not defeated them).
Piper (Piper’s Irish Jig) got her MACH (Master Agility Champion) on the 6th of Oct at the All Terrier agility trial at Kimberton, PA. She was bred by Amy Havely and is out of Ch Sam Hill’s Nutbush City Limit (AnnaMae) by Ch Shar-D’s Check My Label (Frankie). She is the spitting image of her dad and has his attitude from what I understand. Piper has had three trainers over the years. Dan started with her, got busy and Lauren took over; then she left for college in 2008 and I started running her.

The MACH has been a combined effort between Lauren and me. Piper was ranked third in the country this year for Wheatens in Agility and was the only one of the top five that did not have her MACH! She is really fast and loves the sport but always seemed to have a little bobble during one of the two runs you have a day at a trial. You cannot make any mistakes at the excellent level if you want to qualify, so double Qs were hard for us to acquire. I have retrained her contacts and we are now getting more consistent in qualifying. Three miles a day pulling me on my bike has her in top shape for a 7 year old and it helps her settle down and put her thinking cap on before we enter the ring on trial days. We are very close to the points (750) she needs for her MACH2 and will now be working on the 20 double qualifiers we need for that title. Hopefully it will not take as long as the first one. Our family loves Piper and her piss & vinegar all terrier attitude!

Alison Bradley
Post Montgomery, once we had finished the well-deserved accolades to Emily and her Committee, “Breeders Ed” has been the subject of a very lively and productive discussion on our Discuss web site. Several established breeders and a few breeder judges have voiced concern that the Montgomery entry included too many animals that gave the impression that our breed has strayed from our Standard. They pointed to many elements of type, structure and movement that I’ve brought up previously in these columns. Many constructive and practical ideas emerged. I’m sure our very proactive Board has taken note and will work to emphasize the need to adhere to the strictures of the Standard. Indeed, everyone who has signed the Code of Ethics, has pledged to do so.

During those illuminating discussions, I only recall one passing reference to one of our dog’s very important characteristics, …..temperament. Temperament is clearly defined in our Standard:

**General Appearance**

…his particularly steady disposition….the overall appearance of an alert and happy animal

**Temperament** The Wheaten is happy, steady dog and shows himself gaily with an air of self-confidence. He is alert and shows an interest in his surroundings; exhibits less aggressiveness than is sometimes encouraged in other terriers. MAJOR FAULT: Timid or overly aggressive dogs. The official “amplification” goes on to elaborate: “A good tempered, spirited dog, the Wheaten has a temperament unique among terriers. The Wheaten does not look for a fight. When asked to “face off” he should hold his ground until challenged. Once challenged, he will respond like a terrier, but at no time should he be out of control. Bitches frequently exhibit less interest when faced off. All dogs must exhibit confidence.

Brief, but definitive. Temperament is a major factor in making a successful show dog, and even more to the point, essential to creating the happy pet status that we hope will be the eventual status of all of our puppies. Consideration of temperament is a prime duty of every conscientious breeder. Please note the Major Fault: timid or overly aggressive. Some of our early dogs fit those descriptions, and sometimes the “timid” dog becomes a fear biter. We see fewer timid dogs in the ring today, or at least most dogs keep their tails up (if that is a true indicator of temperament), but we still hear frequent reports of behavior and temperament issues from the pet population. The hard-bitten intensity that makes a great Performance dog can fare badly in the hands of an inexperienced pet person. The “happy, steady “dog described in the Standard, can do it all. That is what makes our breed so special…it is an all-purpose dog, and properly socialized by the breeder who follows the dictates of the standard, it will be just that.

Jackie Gottlieb
MEET THE BREEDS
By Pam Tinnelly

On Saturday and Sunday, October 16 and 17, 2010, the AKC held its second annual stand alone Meet The Breeds event at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, in New York City. Pam and John Mandeville, Bev McDonald, Shelly Serafin, and Bonnie and Barry Ivler and their dogs manned the SCWTCA booth on Saturday. Sue Goldberg, Dorice Stancher, Dennis Baribault and Bill Auerbach and their dogs volunteered their time on Sunday. Our volunteers helped prove that many hands (and dogs) make the job easier and much more fun, and the booth ran smoothly both days.

Our Wheaten Ambassadors greeted the huge crowds of people with their typical Wheaten Greetin’ and enthusiastically gave plenty of Wheaten kisses to the delight of children and adults. Our Ambassadors posed for many pictures, especially with the children.

This event helps educate the public on the advantages and disadvantages of each breed of dog, the advantages of purchasing a dog from a reputable breeder, and reinforces the idea of responsible dog ownership. The show also tries to counter groups such as PETA and HSUS and the anti-dog legislation that’s being proposed throughout the country.

The Board of Directors sincerely thanks all the volunteers for their time and expertise in presenting our breed to the public.

Tampa Bay Supports Responsible Dog Ownership

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater Tampa Bay was represented at the AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day in Tampa. We set up our Rescue display and had many folks interested in our Wheatens. Representing Rescue was Darcy…and her friend Molly. Club members manned the booth and answered questions about the breed, breeders, and especially rescue! We met several Wheatens and hopefully have generated interest in our club!
Ch. Frolic Freya of Fenris

Ticket

THANK YOU TO SUE GOLDBERG
FOR THIS WONDERFUL WIN

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In 2010, Mother Nature showed us how “bitch” became a pejorative: two breedings, zero puppies. This after a decade without a glitch of litters followed by dogs in the ring.

Welcome to dog breeding… and frustration to the max in our household.

Our unwanted sabbatical reminded me how big a part of my life dog shows are. It’s not just that the dog world has given me the life I have today, in more ways than can be imagined. It’s that I like shows. I like going, seeing the people week in and week out…fellow Wheaten exhibitors, handlers, field reps, superintendents, even vendors….and just plain watching dogs.

Like anything else…it’s easily taken for granted, when you’re doing it.

The show calendar provides a rhythm to the year. Despite occasional show date changes or new events, there is still Westminster in February, the pick-up of local shows in early spring, running through Columbia Terrier and leading to May’s first weekend and with it my treasured Garden State All Terrier show and the great Bucks County Kennel Club and DelVal specialty the next day. Summer brings a slower pace and then fall comes with Somerset Hills and prepping for the pinnacle of our year: Montgomery and our national specialty.

It’s been said already…hats off to this year’s National Specialty team. Emily and her committee beat the drum loudly and often, providing Wheaten fanciers with the best communications ever, absolutely setting a standard. And while I’d long since reconciled myself to not being in the ring on MCKC day, I gnashed my teeth when I saw our beautiful new trophies. They were outstanding.

I’ve long claimed the dog fancy is a big noisy family. Often dysfunctional, to be sure, but a familiar group we depend on to be there. In this area, we are confronted every year by the anniversary of September 11th. I’m not suggesting people elsewhere take it lightly…but in metropolitan NY, it was our 2,752 family, friends and neighbors who went to work one morning and didn’t make it to their coffee break.

The weekend after the attacks remains a vivid memory and reminder of the dog world as family. We drove into the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club show that Saturday nine years ago and were handed a red, white and blue ribbon created by an AKC field rep in memory of those lost; it remains on my office wall. It was on that day the dog show family came together again…I remember seeing a breeder friend from the DC area arrive and exhalining in relief.

So this year when we were on an unscheduled sabbatical from the show ring, we expanded our dog show family. Some time ago, my column “Get Out of Town” encouraged all to attend a distant specialty to widen your scope. This time, we did something I’d never done before…visit another area of the country, without the excuse of a specialty, and ask near-strangers if we could see their dogs.

I cannot say enough for our reception from the breeders in the Pacific Northwest. Some offered to put together gatherings at their homes, some arranged to bring additional dogs to a show…of course there was a local dog show!…and all welcomed us for the few days we were there. Certainly, it was educational, seeing dogs and breeding programs new to me but I was also reminded how the dog show experience is familiar no matter where you are.

So my advice remains: get out of town and don’t let specialties define where you go.
During our break, I’ve thought about other ways people are involved in the sport. As broad as it is, we still tend to see it narrowly through our own lens. Historically, Wheatens have been breeder-exhibitor oriented. It’s a fairly typical model…people often start out with a dog, learn to groom and show it and have their first champion. They go onto a bitch…or maybe that’s where they started. Next step: puppies, show homes and the Bred-By-Exhibitor class.

A big burden for newcomers… even without taking into account breeding conscientiously and to the standard. Think about it: suddenly, there you are with just one, maybe two, show dogs to your credit and your first litter… and you need to assist pet owners and juggle shows and dogs with the same skill and finesse your multi-generational breeder did for you. Sure, you may have support from dog friends but you’re still out there on your own with big responsibilities.

No one should be enslaved by the breeder-exhibitor model. People get different kicks from the dog experience. No one should get pushed in directions making the sport a trial rather than a joy. Handlers exist for the person who doesn’t want to walk into the ring. Co-breeders are there for the person not keen on managing puppies and owners or without the time. Growing up, finishing and placing champions is an option… I would not be here had Sue not done that for me and Bob wouldn’t be “in Paradise” if we didn’t do the same… a win-win-win for breeder, dog and owners alike. Clubs, stewarding and other competitive events are possibilities for the person who thrives in our community.

Just never forget what you love about being in dogs…and always, it’s the dogs first.

As I’m writing this, our reluctant sabbatical should be coming to an end. As much as we welcome that, we are more thrilled with the news of the AKC-CHF grant for Drs. Littman and Henthorn’s new research. The bow on the package was knowing our Wheaten fundraising groups… SCWTCA, the Endowment and the GRF… have come together in support of this potentially groundbreaking project.

Since Drs Littman and Henthorn began their preliminary analysis of geriatric normal and affected dogs, I’ve felt both elation and terror. Elation that technology has caught up to our needs such that an answer might be within reach…and sheer terror the answer might be there is no difference between affected and unaffected dogs.

When I heard the news their preliminary work found “an area of interest,” my heart soared. There is a light at the end of the proverbial tunnel; it’s still a long tunnel, undoubtedly with twists and turns ahead, and the light is still somewhat faint…but at last, it’s glimmering!

Our year ends with a welcome beginning.
In Memoriam: Jerry Larson

June of this year, Jerry Larson, Past President of Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Association of Canada, was lost to the Wheaten world and to his friends. Cheryl Werner from Red Deer Alberta Canada and I would like to share her thoughts published in the Fall 2010 issue of Wheaten Wags.

In memory of a dear friend- I sit here struggling to condense into a few lines, the kindness and thoughtfulness that Jerry and Helen have shown my two and four legged family members. Lucky are those who chance to meet folk that gather you into their family as though they have known you all their life. Who pass on their wisdom with a keen sense of humour and always with a strong sense of fair play. They delight in being generous with their time and skills while asking nothing in return but your true enjoyment of the occasion. There have been a number of times these past weeks where I have selfishly wondered “why” we lost a loving husband and father, a true “Wheaten” spokesman, a wonderful friend and a diehard Rough Rider (CFL) fan. Just lately it occurred to me that we should not be sad to have lost him but blessed to have known him. Not unlike each of the Wheatens he so loved, Jerry gave of himself unconditionally and enjoyed life to the maximum.

Cheryl Werner and Helen Moreland : “Two of those lucky folk...”
FINLEY DENALI HIGH AND MIGHTY
“McKinley”

CH Harbour Hill Mike Delfino x CH Marquee’s Party Girl

2nd day out in the show ring; 6-9 mo. Puppy class.

Thank you Judge Sally George for this honorable award.

Thanks to the SCWTCA for a memorable Montgomery weekend!
Congratulations to all winners.

Rose Rose and Arnie Spanjers Finley Wheatens Dublin, CA.
SCWTCSC 17th Annual Fun Day
by Miriam Kahan

The rain stopped just in time for our annual Wheaten Fun Day at Arcadia Park in Arcadia, California. About 60 members and friends with nearly 40 fun-loving Wheatens attended. The day was filled with contests and games with prizes awarded for the biggest and smallest nose, the oldest and youngest Wheaten(s) in attendance, and the Wheaten with the longest and shortest tail, the winners of red light, green light, fashion runway race and musical rings (alias Lord of the Rings).

A costume contest found our Wheatens in their Halloween garb. Costumes included:

- a fish
- little witches (2)
- Dr. Hunny (doctor)
- Frog Prince
- Cow
- the lovely green gowned lady
- USC Tommy Trojan
- Heidi

won for most original
won for best team
won for best character
won for best fairy tale character
won for best animal
won for most regal
won for best historical (and hysterical)
won for ‘oh so pretty’

Services available for our Wheatens included non-anesthetic teeth cleaning and micro chipping, both through the Smile Specialist. Four Wheatens earned their Canine Good Citizenship certificate. The evaluator, Susan Walker, has been a CGC evaluator for ten years.

Owners of rescued Wheatens were proud to parade their handsome rescues while their previous circumstances and backgrounds were read aloud. A great Halloween photo opportunity was available and popular for all who attended. You can see some of that photography here.

With the fun came some tears. We opened a time capsule that people had filled ten years ago with photos, notes, and other memorabilia. Many of the dogs in the photos are in doggie heaven, so reading and looking at the contents was quite emotional.

A delicious barbeque ended the multiple activities. Opportunities such as this event are heartwarming, functional and just what was in the name of the day: FUN. Jill and Steve Steging were the hard working chairs of this event. Our club members and those new to the breed all mingled and had a wonderful day.

Photos by Joan Johnson and Lauren Smith
NATIONAL SPECIALTY

Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada
August 26, 2011

Specialty Judge:
Ken Kauffman, Pennsylvania

Sweepstakes Judge:
Emily Holden, Amaden Kennel, Georgia

Regular and Non-Regular Classes,
including Altered Dog Class.
Puppy and Veterans Sweepstakes.
Obedience and Rally-O Trials.

Held in conjunction with the Cape Breton Kennel Club
Show Weekend which includes Four All Breed Shows

Registration information will be available in the spring of 2011.
For further information e-mail:
elizabeth.buffett@seasidehighspeed.com
The Greater Denver Wheatens Go Herding

On a chilly and blustery spring day in May, the Greater Denver Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club held its first herding instinct fun day in Elizabeth, Colorado. As we had a full day of activities planned, we kept our fingers crossed and our eyes to the sky hoping to dodge a rather dreary weather forecast. We advised our participants to come prepared with raingear, boots and lots of layers of clothing. Ah, Colorado in the springtime. Anything is possible!

Jim deKieffer, herding instructor and judge, was there to welcome us to his home and training facility at Halcyon Station in Elizabeth. Halcyon Station is in a fabulous location about an hour southeast of the Denver metro area. The site is on a bluff overlooking the training and trialing fields with splendid views of the Rockies far in the distance. Jim and his wife Susie breed Shetland Sheepdogs under the Halcyon kennel name. Halcyon Shelties participate regularly in the conformation ring and at obedience, agility and herding trials. Jim and Susie have been active in herding since 1985 and host both AKC and AHBA trials at Halcyon Station. Jim has been an AKC and AHBA herding judge since 1996.

As our participants and spectators arrived, everyone bundled up, got their dogs settled in crates and sipped piping hot coffee as we gathered around for Jim's "Herding 101" seminar. During the seminar, Jim gave us an overview of the history of herding and the various herding programs that are currently in operation. He also gave herding demonstrations with his dogs and discussed herding terminology and the various training levels.

After the seminar, we fired up the grill and took a brief break for lunch. We had 18 dogs registered for instinct testing, ominous weather was hovering and we were all anxious to see how our Wheatens would interact with the sheep. Jim explained that he would take each dog and the dog's owner into a small arena with several sheep to see how the dog responded to the sheep. He would use both sheep and ducks (if necessary) to encourage the natural instinct of the dog to emerge. Jim demonstrated an extraordinary amount of patience as he worked with each dog. As the dog began to show some interest in the sheep, Jim encouraged and praised the dog for interacting. For those of us watching ringside, Jim discussed his observations and told us about the behavior that he was looking for. We watched the dog's style – was she gathering or driving? The dog's approach – does she run wide or close? Does the dog work silently or bark while she works? Does she keep the stock grouped or does she single out individuals? Is she responsive to guidance and control? There was so much to learn.

To be honest, going into this most of us were not optimistic that more than one or two of the dogs would pass the instinct test. Sure, some of our Wheatens herd the kids or other dogs at home, but they're whirling dervishes with minds of their own. Could they really focus on the sheep and work them? Boy, did our Wheatens ever surprise us and rise to the occasion. Of the 18 dogs tested, 12 displayed sufficient interest and ability to earn a herding instinct certificate! It was awesome to observe that moment when a dog is in the pen with sheep for the first time and the herding instinct kicks into gear.

It was really a day with our Wheatens to remember. The Greater Denver SCWT Club is planning to hold another herding event in the Spring of 2011. The events of the day proved to us all that Wheaten Terriers truly do have the instinct to herd.

Thank you and congratulations to Suzanne Stone, Connie Koehler and all who assisted them in collecting information and data documenting Wheaten herding history and assembling the SCWTCA proposal to the AKC to allow Wheatens to herd in AKC events. We are thrilled that Wheaten Terriers have been approved to participate in AKC herding events as of January 2011!

by Kathy Drobnak
Happy Birthday Seniors!

AMADEN GLEANNGAY DR QUINN
“MIKAELA”

September 9, 1996

CH Gleanngay Holliday, ROM X Briankeen Sorcha

Mikaela was a “pupcicle,” from the first litter sired by Doc through the use of his frozen semen, and bred by Emily Holden. She was my pick of the litter pup. She was never shown because in those days showing an Irish coated dog was a thankless job and in her later days, she would not have liked it! She has been a wonderful producer for me, however, is an easy keeper and has remained in great condition and health. She looks a lot like her dad. And, like him, she is a delight to live with.

Happy 14th birthday “Mickey Mouse!”

Owner: Gay Dunlap, Gleanngay

CH MARYMORE I BELIEVE IN SANTA
“MACY”

December 22, 1996

CH Legacy the Buck Starts Here X Ch Legacy Morgan LeFey

Happy Birthday Macy! For the last 14 years Macy has been going strong, all 48 lbs of her. She still runs through the house sounding like a vacuum snorting up anything remotely edible. Even with her wide girth she manages to jump straight up in the kitchen for a treat. She has a tremendous amount of energy for any age dog and bounds through the backyard to chase anything that comes close to her fence. She has had 30 puppies all of which are happy healthy and accounted for in their pet homes. She produced 6 champions that have given us much joy through the years. It took her 12 years to actually get a beard and she reminds me every day that not every adolescent coat turns into a wavy silky one. But we love her very much and we hope that those owners with her grandkids and great-grandkids join us in wishing her a very Happy Birthday.

Owners: Mary & Howard Peltier, Marymore
Celebrating Long Life
In honor of our Wheatens who celebrate life for 14 years and beyond

Wheaten Golden Years

The Passing of our Firsts
By Jana Carraway

I’ve struggled with how to write about the last phase of geriatric life, losing our girl Stella (Ch Lissadell Cajun Star, Oct 5, 1993 – Nov 5, 2010). When I think of Stella, I also think of Kieffer (Ch Legacy Maverick, May 22, 1992 – 12 Sept, 2007). While Kieffer was our first Wheaten and our special boy, for the majority of their lives, it was "Kieffer and Stella", our first Wheatens. With Stella's passing comes the close of an era, the close of many firsts and acknowledgement of a volume of learning because of them.

They were our introduction to "handling classes", matches and AKC shows – remember just trying to learn to hold a show lead properly and how the heck do they fold it into their hands so quickly! Our first handling instructor in Southern California moved to Oregon years ago and is one of our handling instructors today. The dog show world is a very small world we learned. We still have their first puppy match ribbons on the refrigerator, where they’ve been since they were awarded. Funny, their first ribbons for which points were awarded are filed, but the match ribbons are still displayed.

They were my introduction to dog grooming. Kieffer's coat had more wave, thus was more forgiving. Stella’s coat was straighter, which taught me about "finishing". The first grooming I tackled was Kieffer's feet. Remember the first time you groomed the whole dog yourself and showed it? I remember that weekend with Kiefer, which was also the same weekend he and I got our first point. And I remember showing Stella for her first point. She was not as into showing as was Kiefer.

Jason and I learned to kayak in southern California before K&S, so naturally they learned to kayak as well. Trouble was, Kieffer was a water dog and keeping him in a kayak was a challenge. Who knew that maneuver they teach you to stabilize 2 kayaks so you can pull a person from the water would be used time and again for Kieffer! Stella, on the other hand managed to stay clean and dry through most adventures in her life. I swear she either walked on tippy toes or floated above it all.

Kieffer and Stella were in our wedding. We were married in Mt Bachelor, Oregon, at the ski resort, in summer. K&S were dressed in floral garlands and attended us every step of the way. The day before the ceremony, Jason and I put K&S on the ski lift and we all took a ride to the top of the mountain. My all-time favorite photo is one of Jason, Kiefer and Stella on top of Mt Bachelor with the Cascade Mountain range north as the backdrop. Wherever we went, they went.

Kieffer was intact until he was 8, but he was never used at stud. His littermate was used extensively. Kieffer should have been used in the gene pool. He had an even and steady temperament and gentlemanly personality. I should have had him collected, but there was no interest, until breeders started looking for
middle-aged healthy males. A lesson learned too late. The breed, overall, needs to work to either keep more males intact or make the effort to collect and store them.

Stella had one litter, the first breeding of a dog that was eventually over used and later diagnosed as affected with PLN. I tried to find an imported dog to breed her to, but no imported dog owners would breed to her pedigree. What it taught me, watching Stella live so long and so well, is that there is so little we can know, predict, guard against or plan for. One of the lessons we’re still learning in Wheaten Terriers. Stella should have had more litters. Those genes should have come forward in our gene pool.

When we moved to Oregon, I went looking for other Wheaten owners, organized a get together and thus "Petnic" was born. Petnic became an annual event open to all Wheaten owners. We sponsored a Wheagle and did much fundraising through Petnic. I will continue to organize annual Wheaten gatherings, but Petnic will always be Kieffer and Stella to me.

K&S spent much of their lives on the trails and beaches of Oregon. They grew old with activity and adventures. Kieffer was plagued with back trouble in his adult life requiring chiropractic adjustments. Another first – Kieffer and I shared a chiropractor, until he required a doggy specialist to add acupuncture to the treatments. Growing old for Kieffer meant monthly treatments, supplements later supplemented with Rimadyl, giving way to stronger pain medication in his last years. For all his back issues, Kieffer lived past 15.

Stella was diagnosed with spondylosis and early stage old age renal failure at 13. The old age renal failure finally caught up with Stella at 17. In the last couple of weeks, Stella started vomiting and stopped eating. We treated her with sucralfate to settle her tummy as we prepared to let her go. With her passing, we close the era of Kieffer and Stella, first experiences and lessons learned, and first heartbreaking losses. They leave us better Wheaten Terrier owners with the best memories and stories. And they leave big paw prints for others to fill.

Dear Prudence with what she did best: puppies!
by Jackie Gottlieb

Sixteen years ago I faced a major challenge as a breeder. I had kept a dog and a bitch out of a litter. The dog was a cobby, sound little fellow, destined to be a Montgomery winner. But by 5 months it was clear…the bitch was just going to be too tall. Aside from her size, and rather large and grace, and had a like a male special. The hoping to breed size the decision for me…a decision every animal is not perfect, but evaluate our breeding stock, can find a mate who one breeding, but when gifted coupled with great October 26, CH Andover Dear months, 5 days, found her final greet you with a wagging tail, stand. Those four wonderful

Benchmarks volume 38 number 4 page 55
Ch. Trigo’s Puesta Del Sol
“Rainey”

Best of Breed
Canadian Valley November 9, 2009
Judge Cindy Meyer

Finishing at Albuquerque May 2010
Judge Norm Patton

“Rainey” and “Twister” are litter sisters
(Ch. Andover Saltinsea Big Baby x Ch. Trigo’s Olive the Other Reindeer)
Ch. Trigo’s Relantago
“Twister”

Major win under Judge Clay Coady
March 2010

FLASH!!
Group 4 under Judge
Gay Dunlap
Los Lunas October
2010

FLASH!!!
Group 1 under
Judge
Pat Huber
Los Lunas October
2010

Finishing under Judge Gary Doerge
At Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club Specialty September 2010
Select Bitch Awards following two days

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Send advertising to Molly O’Connell, 7912 South Vincennes Way, Centennial, CO 80112 (if sent by
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Benchmarks Editor
Molly O’Connell
moconn1030@comcast.net

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