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  ❖ CH Lismore I'm Going To Disney World

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  ❖ GCH Lismore World Without End

"Thank you to Breeder Molly O'Connell"
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From The President
by Jinx Moore

I viewed a commercial by Volkswagen recently that really left an impression on me. The entire commercial showed different age groups laughing - laughing at themselves, laughing at each other, laughing at life. The only line in this commercial read: “It’s not the miles; it’s how you live them.” As I reflected on this commercial, I relived our recent National Specialty.

From the day everyone arrived, I felt a different “vibe” in the air. There were lots of weary travelers entering the lobby on Wednesday, but there was not a grumpy one in the bunch! I became an observer at that point as the crowd increased. Like the VW commercial, the laughter was contagious. Being anxious about what might go wrong in the next few days was always in the back of my mind, but we were off to a good start for our 50th celebration.

Agility suffered through the weather during the week, and as I arrived LATE at Kimberton, Betsy and crew were just tearing down the rings, but still laughing. Then for two days we lived at Hatboro. The weather wasn’t the best on Thursday, but once again everyone was laughing and better yet, the dogs were happy and I’m sure in their own way they were laughing, too. We had one of our largest turnouts for Education Thursday evening, and, yes, everyone was still laughing. That may have been caused by watching each other eat ice cream, wear it on our faces or the front of our shirts! The weather was beautiful at Hatboro on Friday, and we were pampered by the Del Val Club at their Specialty. Del Val was a great host and everyone was laughing.

Friday night was the boutique and annual dinner. And, yes, we finally had our first problem - not enough tables were set. The hotel quickly set another ten seats; the problem was solved, and what a great problem it was to have. (The largest crowd in recent history decided this evening could not be missed.) As I stood at the podium, waiting for everyone to take their seat, I became a little emotional. EVERYONE was laughing and having a good time sharing stories! A new tradition was started Friday night. Wheaten lovers organized themselves by region for a “state” picture. This was a huge success, and you can see all the laughing when you view these pictures in Benchmarks.

Saturday was a busy day for dogs and exhibitors. Obedience began early Saturday morning and even though the entry was small, you could hear laughter as you entered the gym. Sweepstakes was special this year with a large entry in Veterans Sweepstakes in honor of our anniversary. There were lots of “ahh’s” and clapping and smiling faces as our cherished Wheatens covered ground like they were still youngsters. The puppies were feeling good as well, and moved effortlessly, wiggled, jumped, and licked the judge in some instances. (Everyone always laughs at puppies!)

Sunday was our big day. We had, without a doubt, the best decorated ring at MCKC. The gaiting Wheatens of steel with colorful streamers stationed around the ring, the brilliant mums, and, of course, the impressive trophy table made us the talk of the show. (A group of Irish Terrier exhibitors admiring our trophy table commented, “We have trophy envy.”) However, the weather gods were not completely kind. I thought that everything had gone TOO well, so, of course, it must rain and rain it did. Instead of hearing grumbles and complaints, I looked around and saw us laughing. This time the laughter was caused by the lovely hair-dos we now sported, and the “designer” rain gear that adorned our shivering bodies. But, as with any well-planned event, the sun came out just in time for Best of Breed. With so many entries, laughter could be heard again, watching Ken Kauffman organize his ring. When he finished, it looked like a large Wheaten pinwheel with Ken as the center!

Everyone regrouped for the Sunday post party organized by the “Blue Ridge Connection.” (I have learned, recently, from a reliable source, that the name of this group has been changed to “GRITS” - Girls Residing In The South.) With a record crowd, there was a worry we wouldn’t have enough cupcakes for everyone. (Another nice problem to have.) To say the room was filled with laughter is
an understatement. In fact, we got a little rowdy with different groups organizing for more photos to remember the great fun had.

And no specialty is complete without a false fire alarm at 11:00 pm with a hotel full of Wheatens! Talk about laughing...you should have seen all of us adorned in assorted “sleepwear,” rushing out of the hotel with Wheatens in tow! What a sight! And just so you know, the SCWTCA treasurer is truly “keeper of the money.” She left all her personal items, jewelry, and purse, to grab the bag of club money collected throughout the weekend before running out the door!

As everyone packed cars or waited to go to the airport on Monday, the SCWTCA Board trudged off for a day-long meeting. But, surprise again. We completed all of the Club’s business ahead of time and enjoyed a late lunch where we relived SCWTCA’s 50th Anniversary. The laughter could be heard everywhere!

So, thanks to the many who made the entire event such a success. You know who you are, and to say you are appreciated is an extreme understatement. Just remember to laugh and to

“Celebrate the Breed. Celebrate the Friendships!”

From the Editor

by Molly O’Connell

I have to take off my editor hat for a moment and put on my personal cap. Many, many thanks to all for the tremendous support I received both before and after I judged Sweepstakes. I was touched and honored to be chosen for our anniversary weekend. As many of you know, I have struggled with health issues during the past two years. So many of you called, sent notes or gave prayers on my behalf. Looking forward to judging the puppies was something that kept me focused on the future. When the time finally arrived, I was well and very ready! My gratitude goes to all you. Being able to return to MCKC meant more than you can imagine.

Back to Benchmarks. I have streamlined the advertising charges. Now a full page of advertising – regardless of number of photographs – is a flat fee of $50. That is if it is received in final form. The inside cover pages are $75 and the back page is $100 – again, no additional charge for multiple pictures. If you have a desire to place an ad but not the time nor talent, we are providing a free service: creative design and implementation of it by our own Helen Fraguela. Helen has a great eye for design as well as oodles of creativity. You send her the content and photo(s) and she will send you a design for your approval. She then sends it to me in .pdf form for inclusion in the magazine. To see examples of Helen’s work, please go to pages 2, 23, 47, 50, and 59. Helen’s e-mail is fraguela@aol.com. Again, the deadline for Helen to send ads to me is the first of the month prior to the quarterly publication; in the case of the next issue, that will be February 1, 2013.

I hope many of you will consider taking advantage of this offer. Think outside the box. While we all love win photos, how about an ad touting a promising youngster just beginning a conformation career? Consider advertising the parents and the get. How about performance ads? We have some very successful obedience/rally/agility dogs and readers would love to hear (and see!) of their successes. How about an ad with candid photos that promotes your kennel? Realistically, many of us open Benchmarks online and look at the pictures first. Some even wait for the print edition to read the articles. We LOVE pictures. Consider making everyone happy!

After much anticipation of our anniversary weekend and the afterglow of satisfaction, we look forward to our next 50 years. As I looked around the ring and at the celebratory Sunday dinner, I observed that many of us - like our anniversary - are approaching our golden years. How refreshing it was, then, to also see some youngsters who engage enthusiastically in club events; they are our hope for the future. I encourage everyone to reach out to newer members of our fancy. Volunteer yourself as a mentor. Offer to give grooming lessons. Be there to evaluate litters. Put yourself forward because some may hesitate to ask, yet will be thrilled to have your input. Like our dogs, let us be “bright, happy and alert” to the needs of others.
Santa Barbara KC, August 25, 2012
Best of Winners, Four-Point Major

CH Marymore Circle of Friends CGC
“Bammie”
Bred by Jon Caliri, Robert Hale and Mary Peltier
Owned and Loved by
Constance Koehler and Mary Peltier
AND NEW CHAMPION!

Conejo KC, August 27, 2012
Select Bitch, Defeating Two Champions

Class Record:  BOS Five Times, BOW Four Times
Winners Bitch
SCWTCA National Roving Specialty 2012
Something to Talk About

Dog people do a lot of online talking, and we certainly seem to do it all the time. So much so, people regularly turn their nose up at it. “Same ol’, same ol’…no one says anything different…it’s just “groupthink”…what’s the point?”

Yeah, often it’s blather. Admit it…how many times do you look at a post, see the topic, see the sender and know exactly what it’s going to say before you open it…mine included?

Lots of discussion surfaced in October about the PLN DNA test. It’s been a topic that’s been bubbling up periodically, resulting in flurries of sometimes heated e-mails, and then dies down.

Added this time was the kerfuffle over terminology which easily worked itself out to usable language for breeders, even if geneticists…and I can only think of one Wheaten breeder geneticist off the top of my head…might prefer otherwise.

Still, I think discussion is worthwhile, even if tedious and repetitive. It’s a form of therapy, working our way through difficult issues. To those who think it results in “groupthink”…typically someone who doesn’t like what they read…that’s too shallow an interpretation. For each post, there are dozens of people reading and saying “eh…I don’t think so.”

We want to have all the answers NOW. I suspect much of the conversation is because we’re frustrated we don’t have them. Some treat what our researchers candidly say is a partial answer as the complete story. Others, uncomfortable with a partial answer, reject it just because it is not the whole solution.

Here’s how I see PLN testing today: I think of PLN as a table. The markers represent one of the legs. But there are other legs. Perhaps one is another “lethal” gene or a “protective” gene we don’t know about yet. Perhaps the others are the legion of possible environmental factors: disease, infection, stress, diet, and who knows what all else we don’t even know to think about yet. Some combination of “missing legs” causes my proverbial table to collapse…they cause PLN.

Each of us will think about the marker “leg” differently. Some will want it to be solid, to only breed homozygous negative dogs, believing it’s the best way to keep the table standing. Others may be comfortable enough the other legs are solid and can accept a missing leg…a homozygous positive dog. Most are apparently satisfied heterozygotes represent a strong enough leg they must be bred to assure our gene pool isn’t catastrophically narrowed.

There is an emotional component to accepting the inheritance of PLN. We want to fix our dogs when something’s wrong but the genetic basis of PLN may mean that we aren’t able to do it. If we have bred that dog, the added ache is that we perhaps caused it…even though we may not have had any reason to be suspicious about a breeding.

So I understand those feelings…been there…lead people down different paths, some of which may be right, some wrong. Nevertheless, we must guard against jumping from emotional reaction to absolute truth.

While a lot has changed and some of the conversation may have made me think further, there are still three things I believe about this testing. First, it’s not the whole dog. Few have ever claimed it is nor should anyone.
Second, it’s brought us the opportunity to include dogs in our breeding programs we might have previously excluded from our breeding plans. I’m not the only one who has not bred bitches out of affected parents, only to see them still healthy at double-digit ages. Today, they and their offspring might be contributing to the breed. Thinking this test only limits our options is wasteful and it’s stupid as well.

The final thing I could not more strongly believe: we are better off today than we were a year ago. Is it comfortable? Not always…knowledge isn’t always pleasant. Does it make decisions harder? Certainly…and when have serious breeders ever found decision making easy? Does it result in disappointments? That’s hardly new.

This was the dog community at its best. It should remind us there is far more that unites than divides us.

Before you say good riddance to all the posts and lists and Facebook friends, don’t dismiss another aspect of the online discussion. We have this common interest, yet we are spread throughout the country and the world. Online discussion helps make us a community. Lest that sound way too touchy feely for you, I agreed…until October 29th when Hurricane Sandy arrived in NJ.

This was the dog community at its best. It should remind us there is far more that unites than divides us.

Messages began appearing on lists and on Facebook asking how people were doing on the East Coast. If someone didn’t check in, e-mails went out to be sure they were ok, to offer suggestions and assistance.

John and I had a nine-day old litter the day the storm hit and the power went out. Little scares me these days. I was terrified for them.

As we were sorting out our plans, friends offered advice. I am very grateful to Bonnie O’Connor and Judy Downing who offered great suggestions to help us prepare in the run up to the storm. SCWTCA members Wendy and Tom Neill and Jeanne Ferris promptly reached out to let us know we were welcome to bring the brood and stay with them. Others from further away felt helpless they couldn’t do more.

We were among the luckiest. Our only loss was power.

We decamped to my brother and sister-in-law’s home with a dam and eight puppies in tow and the others happily went to a kennel. Fortunately Charlie and Lynn own Franny…one of those daughters of an affected dam and granddam who might’ve been bred with this test…and fortunately they have plenty of room and patience for nervous breeders. We will be forever grateful to these people and this community for their warmth and support.

I’ve tried not to brag about my dogs in this column, and this really isn’t about Pinch, whose fictional adventures have resulted in her own Facebook following. Instead, I’m saluting Pinch’s breeders, Julie and Josh Burdick, who produced a bitch with such utter confidence and equanimity she relocated with her first litter without missing a beat. Within two hours of pulling out of our driveway, exhausted and on edge, followed by unloading, resetting a puppy expen, getting everyone in and taking a lot of deep breaths, Pinch was comfortably relaxing and nursing puppies. This, of course, reminded me of the discussion on temperament that also took place in October.

So there is always something to talk about online…and when you need to balance out the silliness, remember that sometimes, it’s lifesaving.

by Karen Bilda

The annual summer Sweepstakes and Specialty of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater Milwaukee was held on Friday, July 27th at the Waukesha County Expo Center. Although we had been enduring hot weather for weeks prior to the show, we were very fortunate to have a beautiful day with warm, rather than hot temperatures.

The day began with Helen Moreland of Kuhhullen Wheatens judging an entry of 6 (4-2) in the Sweepstakes. Jendu Out of the Blue (by CH Candance Daze of Thunder and CH Jendu Navy) was selected as Best in Sweeps from the 9-12 month puppy bitch class. She was bred and is owned by Catherine Perron and Dana Frady. Selected as Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Sweepstakes was Mil Mear Geragold Galileo (by CH Ellora Bastion and CH Mil Mear Geragold Cowgirl Up). He was bred by his owner, Monica Kipp, along with Neil O’Sullivan and Gerard Thompson.

Helen had this to say about the Sweepstakes entry: “Even though a very warm day at the 2012 Sweeps SCWTCGM on July 27th, the six puppies entered went around the ring with tails up and showed their stuff. There were pretty coats and mainly good movement, clean heads, nice shoulders and rears, and good bites. The BISW was a lovely bitch with great style, body, and movement.”
The day continued with our Wheaten Specialty (3-7-3-0) judged by Dr. Vandra Huber. Awarded Best in Specialty was CH Kilronan Exeter’s Gunpowder and Lead. He was bred by Ms. Kathy Clarke & Carl McGill out of CH Reflections All You Need Is Love and CH Edgewood’s Steel Magnolia. He is owned by Cynthia Stokvis.

Tiffen’s Making Waves (by CH Merileac’s Family Jewels and CH Tiffen’s Molly’s By Golly), bred and owned by Nancy Lynn Holland, was awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Specialty, Best of Winners, and Winners Bitch. Winterwheat Golden Memories (by CH Pinehome’s Lumber Jack and CH Winterwheat Second Edition), bred by Bette Eckstrom and owned by Ann Adam, was chosen as Winners Dog.

Dr. Huber awarded Select Dog to GCH Shandalee Rocket Science (by CH Kildimo Boys Of Bluehill and GCH Shandalee Rocket Fire). He was bred by Sue Goldberg & Harvey Goldberg, and is owned by Nancee Bailey & Sue Goldberg.

Each first to fourth class placement was awarded a stuffed toy. Best in Sweepstakes, Best of Opposite in Sweepstakes, Best of Breed, Best of Winners, and Best of Opposite to Best of Breed were given embroidered towels commemorating the day. The SCWTCA supported our entry by providing Wendall August medallions designed by Darcie Olson to the top winners in sweepstakes and in the specialty.
This past Montgomery weekend was a huge success and kudos again to Pam and Bob Tinnelly and their committee and to Del Val for their hospitality.

Happily, in the two years since I had the honor of judging our National Specialty, there seems to be an improvement in the overall quality of our breed but we still have a long way to go.

Ever since Wheatens first competed at Montgomery, I have been on an ongoing, 39-year quest to find “Prince Charming.” I saw several potential candidates this year and asked the owners for permission to go over their dogs. In two separate cases, as soon as the dog was on the table, the first words out of the owner’s mouth – unsolicited by me – were the dog’s numbers for the DNA PLN marker! Not what his temperament was; not the health of his parents, grandparents, siblings, offspring, nor their longevity; not what traits he passes on to his offspring, nothing but his numbers!!!

In a more extreme case, the next day at Montgomery, a SCWTCA breeder asked me to go over and give my evaluation of her seven-month-old show prospect puppy that she had gotten from another SCWTCA breeder. Why? Because the numbers had just come back on this puppy and its breeder now wanted her spayed and placed as a pet!

All I could think of was, heeeeeeeeeeere we go again!!! - breeders making decisions based on partial or incomplete information, total knee-jerk reactions without using common sense. In other words, those who ignore history are condemned to repeat it.

I vividly remember the education seminar many Montogmersys ago, not long after Dockers, CH Carlinayer’s Brendan Murdock, our breed’s most prolific sire, had been diagnosed with both PLE and PLN. In response to the initial shock, some breeders got out of the breed altogether; some spayed and neutered everything they had. Some of us just wanted to wait till the dust settled before making any decisions. The veterinary geneticist, the late Dr. George Padgett of the University of Michigan, was there to speak to us about what to do with all the “Dockers” puppies. “If you stop breeding all these Dockers puppies,” he said, “the breed will become extinct.” A slight overstatement, perhaps, but he was making a point. “Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater,” he cautioned, “instead, study the pedigrees and assign risk” and “….breed as far away from these diseases as you can.” Sound advice then, sound advice now.

Then, a year or so later, we had an international education day at Montgomery, with several well-known Wheaten breeders from other countries in attendance. A good number of American breeders had begun importing dogs from overseas in an attempt to “broaden our gene pool.” I sat with a breeder from Ireland and asked her what health clearances are required over there. She smiled patiently and said, “We don’t do any of that. Ireland’s a poor country. We can’t afford to do health testing.” That did not seem to deter the U.S. breeders who, with good intentions, broadened our gene pool but didn’t necessarily improve it. Breed type was set back considerably and, while coats were markedly improved, we lost silhouettes, toplines, tailsets, substance, headpieces and more. We are still trying to regain lost ground.

Dr. Meryl Littman works tirelessly on our behalf to find answers for us regarding PLE and PLN. Finding the markers was a big deal and very exciting news indeed. But as Meryl, herself, and most of us “veteran” breeders have cautioned, it is only one tool. Just as we cannot build a house with just a hammer, we cannot build a breeding program based on this one tool. We still need the straightedge, the drill, the screwdriver, the saw, AND a full set of blueprints to build our house. We still need more complete and detailed instructions on how this tool is best utilized, i.e. why some dogs who are heterozygous-positive, carrying both markers, are living till 14, 15, 16, and beyond and why some with no markers die before they’re six. Whether there exists a “protective gene,” whether there are other triggers, allergies, stress, etc., we just don’t know yet. At this point, the numbers alone don’t tell us the whole story.

Let’s not repeat the mistakes of the past. We are not breeding NUMBERS, we are breeding Wheatens! Temperament, type, soundness are as important as good health if we are to preserve our breed as a breed. Until we have all the information, until we know how best to use this valuable tool, let’s put it carefully back in the tool box to be preserved until we have acquired ALL the tools needed and a full set of instructions for their use.
GCH Shandalee Rocket Science (CH Kildimo's Boys of Blue Hill x CH Shandalee Rocket Fire)

Wheatens of Shandalee
Co-owned by Nancee Bailey and Breeder of Merit, Sue Goldberg

Max is beautifully presented by Laura King

908.647.0907
Enjoy 13 months of delightful Wheatens — January 2013 through January 2014! Photographs were submitted by your friends in the Wheaten community.

Available online at www.scwtca.org
Racing to the top...

GCH Mirikal Double Top Breakout
“Race”
CH Melandee’s High Wire Act X CH Doubloon's Playing for Keeps

♦ Top 10 Ranked with limited showing
♦ Group Placements
♦ Multiple Specialty Best of Breed Wins

Breeder/Owner/Handler
Susan McGee
Mirikal Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers
Being asked to judge Sweepstakes is always such a treat. I mean who doesn’t just love Wheaten puppies? I was especially thrilled to be asked to do the honors at the Greeley Specialty by my club’s board here in Colorado. What a lovely way to welcome me home!

The overall quality of the entry was lovely. I was pleased to see many well-conditioned dogs sporting glorious coats, correctly shaped dark eyes, and those big black noses we all love. To note, there were a number of dogs with smallish teeth and some dropped lower incisors. This is an area for improvement. Rear angles seem to have improved, yet a few of the dogs were more upright in the front, which is something else on which we could focus. I was most pleased with the happy, upbeat attitude on these young dogs, which is a tribute to their breeders.

6-9 Puppy Dog

1st - Haldane Blues Traveller. This happy young dog sported a stunning coat, dark eyes, beautiful big white teeth, and a beautiful headpiece. With clean, well-laid-back shoulders, he held his outline going around the ring. His ears could benefit from being a bit closer to his head. He really asked for the win in the final lineup and went on to Best Op.

12-18 Junior Dog

1st - Heirloom Nobody Does It Better. This striking, well-balanced dog was lovely in outline. He had a nice layback of shoulder, dark eye, and he pushed hard for the win. He could have been a bit more fluid in his movement in my ring that morning.

2nd - Heirloom Dean’s Impossible Dream. This handsome dog sported a lovely coat and dark eyes. He was a bit more upright in the front. I later found out he was the littermate to my first-place dog, and the resemblance was clear. Congratulations to the breeder on a nice litter.

3rd - Trigo Let Freedom Ring. Beautifully square in outline and groomed to perfection, this dog presented a lovely picture. He fell short to the others in his class in movement on the day.

6-9 Puppy Bitch

1st - Lismore Catching Fire. This promising young bitch is graced with a gorgeous coat and lovely expression. While her front is still a bit loose, she was very fluid going around the ring. She will only get better as she matures.

9-12 Puppy Bitch

1st - Lismore Once Upon A Time. This feminine, stylish girl presented a beautiful picture. Square in outline with a pretty head and eyes, she pushed hard for the win.

2nd - Saddlebrook’s Party Shoes. This happy girl had a lovely coat color and was shown beautifully. She had more substance than the first-place bitch and could have had a better bite.

12-18 Junior Bitch

1st - Ceili’s Shiny And Bright. With a beautiful silky coat, this stylish bitch was a standout. Shown to perfection, she moved out around the ring with a fluid grace that was a joy to behold. I was thrilled to award her Best In Sweeps.

2nd - Harmony Full Circle. This promising bitch is blessed with a lovely coat and expression. She will press hard for the win as she gets a bit more experience in the ring.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to each of the exhibitors who honored me with this beautifully-presented entry. Seeing so many nice dogs makes me proud and humbled to count myself as a fellow breeder.
It is always an honor and pleasure to be invited to judge a Specialty show - and your Specialty was especially enjoyable - your Club is super. I am very impressed with all of the activities that you participate in and contribute to outside the dog world. Your Club’s enthusiasm is contagious.

Your hospitality was wonderful and the Club dinner was delicious. My husband enjoyed the evening and your great friendship. (It has been years since he attended a “dog club dinner” and he was impressed with your hospitality and the super food – I may even get him to attend another sometime!) I appreciate the gift of the GDSCWT lap robe. I am also glad we won something in your Club raffle.

Your support for all the winners and your sportsmanship was very evident. Keep it up – as you know, next time may be your turn for the accolades.

Some of my comments regarding the entry on the day:

The 6-9 month puppy dog, Stratford A Dash of Spice, was charming and well-balanced. (Give him a little maturity and more confidence and he is going to be one to watch).

The 12-15 dog class had two nice square dogs with good coat.

The winner of the 15-18 dog class was Winners Dog, Heirloom Dean’s Impossible Dream - a handsome dog with great coat, proper outline and movement.

The Bred-by dog was RWD, Haldane Blues Traveller - his outline was square, nice on the go around; however, he needed a little tightening up in the shoulders.

The Bitch classes had a little more depth of quality than the dogs.

The 6-9 month puppy bitch, Lismore Catching Fire, was beautiful and confident – she showed well in the class but was beaten out for Reserve by the Open Bitch.
The 12-15 month class had two nice bitches both showing good free movement and nice balance.

The winner of the Bred-by bitch class, **Lismore Once Upon A Time**, was Winners Bitch and Best of Winners – she is square with wonderful side movement and a good coat.

The American Bred bitch winner, **Carey At Last**, had good proportions and was nice on the go around.

Open bitch winner, **Stratford The Head of the Class**, is a nice bitch – square and good side movement. She was RWB.

Best of Breed Competition was won by **GCH Doubloon’s Extreme Play**. A wonderful line-up of Specials. I think the Best of Breed Bitch is a great example of what your breed should resemble. She has proper movement, tail set and carriage, super coat texture, and an attitude and showmanship that exhibits proper breed characteristics.

The Best of Opposite Sex Dog, **GCH Stratford Notorious At Lismore**, is a handsome and upstanding dog with good showmanship, balance of proportions, and proper coat texture.

Select Dog, new **CH Heirloom Nobody Does it Better**, and Select Bitch, **GCH CH Eringlo Alwaz Luk’n to Race**, were also good examples of proper breed type. There were many others in the Best of Breed that on any given day could have been top winners.

I enjoyed my time in the ring with your dogs and appreciate the invitation to judge your wonderful Specialty. My sincere thanks to all of you for your warm hospitality.

**BOB**: **GCH Doubloon’s Extreme Play**
(GCH Doubloon’s Salt Of The Earth x CH Doubloon’s Ultimate Player)  Breeder/Owner: Elena Landa.

**BOS**: **GCH Stratford Notorious At Lismore**
(CH Marymore Gift Wrapped x CH Stratford All the World’s A Stage) Breeder: Molly O’Connell, Richard Hodges & Meg Ryan. Owners: Molly O’Connell & Meg Ryan.

**WD**: **Heirloom Dean’s Impossible Dream**

**WB/BW**: **Lismore Once Upon a Time**
(CH Lochlinear Gleanngay Quick As A Wink x GCH Lismore The World According To Me)  Breeder/Owner: Margaret Ryan.
SB: GCH Eringo Alwaz Luk’n To Race
(CH Duidream Quicktime x CH Eringlo Alwaz An Angel)
Breeders/Owners: Dennis & Cindy Shea.

RWD: Haldane Blues Traveller
(CH Haldane Steamroller Blues x Haldane Emerald Rose)

RWB: Stratford The Head of the Class
(CH Saltnsea Big Baby x CH Stratford Our Miss Brooks)
Breeders/Owners: Molly O’Connell & Sharon Panik.

Evergreen Kennel Club - SCWTCA Supported Entry
Sunday, September 9, 2012
Judge Candy Way

BOB: CH Mirikal Double Top Breakout
(CH Melandee’s High Wire Act x CH Doubloon’s Playing for Keeps)

SD: Heirloom Nobody Does It Better
(CH Whindancer Sweet Baby James x CH Heirloom Hey Good Lookn RN)

SB: CH Stratford Fashionista
(GCH Stratford Top Brass x CH Stratford Accessorized)
Breeders/Owners: Molly O’Connell, Barbara Gillett & Kay Kotzelnick.

WB/BW: Saddlebrook’s Party Shoes
(GCH Ceili’s Time To Shine x CH Saddlebrook’s Good Karma)
Breeders/Owners: Stan & Jinx Moore.

WD: Blessing High Regard
(CH Ceili’s Time to Shine x CH Harmony Sweet Blessing)

Benchmarks . volume 40 . number 4 . page 19
AKC makes thousands of decisions everyday. Virtually all of them are highly structured in accordance with the various rules and regulations under which AKC operates. A tiny number directly concerns individuals, for example approving dog show superintendents or, most notably, approving judges for breeds.

The big decisions having to do with how AKC carries out its mission are, of course, made by its board of directors: specific details about the 11 men and two women comprising AKC’s Board will await another time. Today a look at the two biggest decisions – in my opinion – AKC has made in the last four decades, neither of which reflects well on AKC, the worse of the two arguably an unmitigated disaster for purebred dogs.

The lesser of the two lousy decisions was AKC’s not moving forward with its plans to build a campus headquarters facility.

Didn’t know about that did you?

On the positive side, by the early 1990s there were AKC Board members who recognized AKC derived minimal, if any, benefit from being located in New York City. Actually AKC management, with the Board’s concurrence, had already recognized the significant benefits of moving chunks of AKC’s operations out of New York. This began in the late ‘80s with the systems and programming functions.

Those functions moved to Durham, North Carolina. A good choice, given the extensive operations in the neighboring Research Triangle Park with its huge need for programmers and techies of every stripe; plus there were extensive technical resources available at nearby Duke, the University of North Carolina, and North Carolina State. None of that had anything particularly to do with the decision to move AKC’s technical ops south. Durham, North Carolina was chosen because of the wife of AKC’s head of computer operations. No kidding, AKC’s head techie had relocated from Durham to work at AKC, taking up the life of a commuter from New Jersey to AKC’s 51 Madison Avenue location in the gold-domed, National Historic Landmark designated New York Life Building. His wife hated their relocation, eventually deciding she was returning to Durham with or without her husband. When the head techie told his boss, AKC’s controller and future President Bob Maxwell that he was leaving, Bob facilitated setting up AKC’s technical ops in Durham.

No doubt, Bob also saw the move as the first step in getting out of New York’s too expensive job market. In short order customer service and registrations functions were moved, setting the stage for moving all of AKC to North Carolina. AKC’s Board approved, establishing a committee for the project with the goal of acquiring land and custom building AKC’s permanent home in the Raleigh-Durham area.

Not only was the die seemingly cast, bids were solicited from New York’s most prestigious architecture/engineering/design firms. This resulted in the selection of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, then and now one of the most renowned architecture firms in the world. Their task was to assist in acquiring land, designing and building AKC’s permanent headquarters. SOM assigned one of their most respected partners, David Childs, responsibility for AKC’s project. As an aside, Childs is the architect of One World Trade Center, the building replacing the twin towers destroyed on 9/11.

AKC bought over 100 acres at the intersection of Interstate 40 and State Highway 751 in Durham, 11 miles west of Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Childs and his assistants created a development plan for the site.
At this point it fully dawned on powerful forces in the sport – who, shall we say, were more than a tad NYC-centric and not inappropriately referred to behind their backs as an old-boys’ network - that AKC was serious about leaving New York City. Suffice it to say a nasty effort to block the move was undertaken. The result was AKC’s Board pulling the plug on the project. Today yet another palace to consumption…a suburban mall indistinguishable from thousands of others…sits on the site of what could have been not just AKC’s headquarters but also the Dog Museum and the equivalent of the Purina Event Center.

AKC should have long since had such a permanent facility. Killing the project was disgraceful. Now whether it might ever be possible to build such a headquarters facility is doubtful.

That was a bad, shortsighted and likely costly decision.

AKC’s worse decision has fundamentally changed AKC. That was the Frequently Used Sires program put in place at the close of the 20th Century, primarily because of the urging of a single Board member.

Frequently Used Sires requires all owners of stud dogs producing their seventh litter to provide AKC a DNA sample of their dog and pay for the processing. The breed of the Board member who was the moving force had had a nightmarish scenario. One of the breed’s most popular sires had supposedly serviced an extremely large number of bitches over an extended period. It was determined he had not been the actual sire of a significant number of the litters attributed to him.

Not good. Worse the mess was so extensive and convoluted it was not going to be possible to straighten out the pedigrees of a relatively huge number of dogs.

Thus the proposal for the Frequently Used Sires program makes sense. Had it been in place, it wouldn’t have eliminated intentionally fouled pedigrees, but it would have helped greatly reduce their occurrence and potentially made it possible to correct fouled pedigrees.

AKC’s Board was highly sensitive to accusations they were insufficiently concerned about the accuracy of its studbook. Frequently Used Sires directly addressed such charges. Moreover it used the most up-to-date technology to identify dogs at the genetic, e.g. cellular, level.

Sounding better by the second.

Except for one thing, AKC put Frequently Used Sires in place with no evaluation of what its impact might be; the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

AKC was then, for all practical purposes, the registry of America’s pet dogs. Those registration fees substantially subsidized a wide range of important AKC activities from events to the Canine Health Foundation to lobbying in Washington.

The Missouri Breeders Association, a trade group of midwestern commercial breeders wanted none of paying for a DNA profile of their sires. They called for a boycott of AKC. AKC, with no analysis of what that might mean, reacted by saying in so many words, “goodbye to bad rubbish,” a position articulated publicly by both AKC’s President and Board Chairman.

They thought without AKC papers commercial breeders would be unable to sell their dogs. It turned out AKC was half right. It does require papers to sell purebred dogs to the American public. Unfortunately it doesn’t require AKC papers; something instantly demonstrated by commercial breeders who virtually overnight created their own registries, for their dogs. Their sales never missed a beat.

AKC for its part stood by and watched as commercial registry after commercial registry came into existence all derived from dogs that had originally been AKC registered.
As a result, in little more than a decade, AKC registrations have dropped from about 1,200,000 to what will likely be less than 500,000 for 2012. There are now far more purebred dogs being produced annually in the United States that are not AKC registered than are AKC registered.

AKC has gone from the registry of America’s pets to something altogether different; what that is has yet to be determined. The good news is there is a chance AKC may yet come to be identified as the registry of the best, most caring breeders who do it right: In short the registry of the fancy.

We can only hope.

Willie: Caught in the Act!

by Bonnie Ivler

Willie is a dog that came from one of my litters and lives next door to me. He is quite obedient except when it comes to the cat’s food; as much as it is put where he cannot get it, he manages to find it. Yesterday, my neighbor was on the phone and not watching him and she heard noises. She went to see what was going on and found Willie’s head stuck in the bag of cat food. He was caught in the act!!! He could not get his head out for whatever reason so after eating what was left, he tore the bottom of the bag to come up for air....

At the time, my girlfriend had been on the phone with the SS office. She could not breathe she was laughing so hard and when SS heard what was happening, they had a good laugh too. Now she has a direct contact at Social Security.

We can always count on our dogs to lighten our lives.
A TOP PRODUCER AND OUR “LOVE BUG”

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Of Them All
CH Moonstruck Happily
Ever After
CH Moonstruck Dreams
Can Come True

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The perennially golden days of October shone with extra zest in southeastern Pennsylvania for Wheaten lovers this year as we honored our national club’s 50th anniversary in grand style. Our chosen theme of “Celebrate the Breed, Celebrate the Friendships” said it all as breed enthusiasts and exhibitors came together from across North America and the globe.

Pam Tinnelly, our 2012 Specialty Coordinator, led a dedicated team of volunteers who spared no effort to make every event sparkle like gold.

Performance sports led off the week in Kimberton with the Montgomery All-Terrier Agility Trial. There were 407 runs on Tuesday, 443 runs on Wednesday, 395 runs on Thursday and 269 runs on Friday. At the Garden State All Terrier Club Rally Trials on Wednesday, one Wheaten qualified in Rally Advanced B and Rally Excellent B toward her RAE. On Thursday, at the GSATC Obedience Trials, one Wheaten qualified in Open B, a second in Beginner Novice B, and a third took first place in Graduate Novice.

On the conformation side, Kerry Lee judged 89 Wheatens on Thursday at Hatboro, while Desi Murphy presided over a ring of 94 dogs on Friday. Also on Friday, Jackie Whitham judged 25 youngsters in the Del Val Specialty Sweepstakes.

Gilt-colored welcome bags, chock full of treats for Wheatens and their humans, greeted arriving guests at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in King of Prussia—formerly the Dolce Valley Forge—and were quickly snapped up. Gary Vlachos delivered the Thursday evening educational program and ice-cream social on the topic of “?!What Standard Are They Judging From?!” to a packed house.

Friday evening’s golden anniversary celebration opened with the favorite Wheaten Wares Boutique at the cocktail hour. The new 2013 calendars sold like hotcakes, exhausting the supply on hand in less than an hour. The 2009 and 2010 yearbooks - the latter also in digital format - were also big sellers. The 2012 fundraisers included a roomy duffle-bag cooler and the 50th anniversary commemorative coffee mug. Our president, Jinx Moore, conducted the annual meeting and awards presentation on Friday, following a delicious dinner.

This year’s raffle items also reflected the special anniversary occasion: six metallic, running Wheatens which decorated the Sunday specialty ring and went home with their new owners after drawings on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday evenings; and a new iPad with a whimsical Wheaten cover was won at the postshow dinner on Sunday.

SCWTCA’s official National Specialty events kicked off on Saturday at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, while over at Devon, David Doane judged 63 Wheatens in conformation. Obedience and rally trials were held in the college gym as Judge Marilou McCloskey put seven obedience and six rally entrants through their paces. Suzanne Stone also evaluated several Wheatens for their Canine Good Citizen - soon to be a new AKC title - and Therapy Dog tests. In the afternoon, Barbara Miller judged 15 veterans and Molly O’Connell judged 37 pups and juveniles in their respective sweepstakes rings.

A sudden drop in temperatures accompanied by rain did little to dampen spirits for the National Specialty on Sunday at MCKC. Ken Kauffman judged an entry of 135 Wheatens, moving quickly and expertly in the inclement weather. Morning and lunchtime hospitality warmed everyone’s insides, while the show tent kept the spectacular trophies, stewards, and exhibitors dry until they had to venture forth into the wet conditions.
A final evening of frivolity at the post-Specialty Hospitality dinner on Sunday allowed everyone to say good-bye after an action-packed week. Following a sumptuous buffet which had to be replenished several times, and after a session of lively bidding, the 50th anniversary banner was auctioned off by Richard Urquhart and won by BOB owner/handler Kent Meyer. To commemorate the weekend and for those who could not join the festivities, the 2012 specialty DVD can be preordered on the club’s web site online boutique. The yearbooks, fundraiser items, and calendars that were sold at the Wheaten Wares boutique are ready to ship now for great holiday gifts.

Awards Presentation for Achievements in 2011
SCWTCA Annual Dinner Friday, October 5, 2012

Each recipient of a trophy at the 2011 MCKC was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation. Awards were presented for the following:

**Andover Challenge Trophy for Best of Breed:**
CH Greentree Rising Star, owned by Jacque Andras and Beverly & Kevin McDonald

**Everett Keller Memorial Trophy for the Breeder of the Winners Bitch:**
Denise Daniel for Star Living the Dream

**Mary Anne Dallas Memorial Trophy for the Breeder of the Best of Winners:**
Denise Daniel for Star Living the Dream

**Bryan E. McNamara Memorial Trophy for Best Bred-by Exhibitor Bitch:**
Denise Daniel for Star Living the Dream

**David R. Lincicome Trophy for Best Bred-by Exhibitor Dog:**
Aran Walks on Water, owned and bred by Shari Boyd Carusi

**Maureen Holmes Memorial Trophy for the Breeder of the Best in Sweepstakes:**
Elena Landa for Doubloon’s Extreme Play

**Best in 2011 Specialty Show Breeder Award:**
Beverly & Kevin McDonald for CH Greentree Rising Star

**Brenmoor Bred-by Exhibitor Challenge Award**
for the breeder of record who accumulates the most points from the Bred-by Exhibitor classes over the National Specialty Weekend 2011:
Jeanne Pedersen Ferris

And, for the breeder of record who accumulates the most points from the Bred-by Exhibitor class at the Great Western Terrier Association Roving Specialty weekend 2011:
Jim & Tami Herzog

**CH Abby’s Postage Dhu O’Waterford “Casey” Award for the Wheaten defeating the most Wheatens by going Best of Breed (661):**
GCH Gleanngay Legend of the Grail, owned by Sally Leonard

**Best in Show Award for any Wheaten that goes “Best in Show”:**
GCH Gleanngay Legend of the Grail, bred by Gay Dunlap and owned by Sally Leonard

**CH Gleanngay Holliday “Doc” Award for the Wheaten owned and bred by a SCWTCA**
CH MilMear Geragold How Far?, owned by Neil O’Sullivan, Gerard Thompson, Monica Kipp & Susan Kipp

The following Ida Sawtelle Mallory Versatility Awards were awarded for:

**Versatility Dog Excellent:**
CH Westridge High Adventure CDX GN RAE NAP NJP, owned by Linda Fussel, Cecily Skinner & Ilze Barron

CH Jendu Outlaw CDX RA TD NAP owned by JoAnne Vogt & Dana Frady

**Versatility Dog:**
CH Raelyn Lasting Impression NA NAJ, owned by Nancy Griffin & Lynn Cone

CH Kaylynn Murphy’s Law Unto Himself NA NAJ, owned by Roberta Salmon & Kay Baird

CH Jendu Outlaw CDX RA TD NAP owned by JoAnne Vogt & Dana Frady

CH Heirloom to Infinity and Beyond OA OAJ NAP NJP, owned by Patrice Chevalier & Robert Bergman

CH Acacia’s Angel of Music Encore CD, owned by Ann Skogerboe, Lisa Lopez & Barb Smith

**Harry Blair Award for a Wheaten owned by a SCWTCA member who earns an AKC Tracking Dog Title (TD) during 2011:**
CH Acacia’s Some Like It Hot VCD2 RE MXP AJP NFP, owned by Betsy Geertson & Guillermo Rueda

CH Jendu Outlaw CDX RA TD NAP, owned by JoAnne Vogt & Dana Frady

**The SCWTCA Register of Merit (ROM) Award for top producers in our breed (Sires produce 15.; Dams produce 8):**
CH Gleanngay Quintessa ROM, owned by Scott & Sherrie Amon, Gay Dunlap & Dana Frady

CAN CH Soldiersong Fianna Boy ROM, owned by Judy Gruselie

CH Stratford the World Revolves Around Me ROM, owned by Meg Ryan

CH Marquee’s Tricks of the Trade ROM, owned by Marcia Weisman, Richard & Sonya Urquhart

**Junior Showmanship Award for Junior Handler, showing a Wheateen, who has defeated the most other Junior Handlers as a result of class placements:**

Abby Kochan

**Wheaten Ambassador Award presented to the Wheaten Terrier that has made a difference in its community:**

CH Banner Sweet Talkin’ Guy RN RA CGC TDI, owned by Carol Carlson, John & Pam Mandeville

**Rescue Family of the Year Award for exhibiting extraordinary care, dedication and personal sacrifice in the performance of rescue efforts on behalf of SCWTCA**

Nancy Fox & Jill Nowak

**AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award, Special Recognition for having made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs and embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship:**

Betsy Geertson

**Jan Linscheid Fellowship Award presented for Extraordinary Contribution to the SCWTCA and to the breed and to a person who epitomizes the outstanding human qualities of Jan Linscheid:**

Genie Kline

When I was first asked by Carol Carlson to judge Veterans I thought, “Why me?” It didn’t take long for me to figure it out as this is a celebration year for Wheatens. Wow! 50 years have swiftly gone by. I got my first Wheaten in 1967 and partnered with my good friend Sue Bobley as we formed Max-Well. What seems like yesterday just isn’t. The proof in the pudding is the photo the veteran “girls” took
after judging; me, Jackie, Carol, Sue and Marjorie. But reminiscing is just that...looking back. We had good times back then forming a little club in Jackie’s basement, the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Metropolitan New York. I took on being president as long as Jackie made the brownies she was famous for. Carol and Marjorie living in the Philly area have no idea what they missed - the brownies that is.

On a serious note, it was that little club with members Roberta Vesley, the first librarian for the AKC, Ruth Stein, Audrey Weintraub, Sue Goldberg, Sue Bobley, and me that actually helped put the breed on the map. Being in the AKC Miscellaneous class and showing our Wheatens as many weekends as possible helped to elevate the breed to full recognition in January 1973. In those years many of us wore buttons that said, “We like Wheatens naturally.” I was one of them who felt we should show the dogs in the coat they were born with and I don’t mean the tight little curly coat that we referred to as the Irish coat. I mean the coat that popped up, possibly as a recessive gene, the wavy coat we termed American. But as we came to realize, including me, tidying up with scissors was sure to happen. In actuality a properly groomed and conditioned Wheaten then as now is a picture worthy of a ribbon.

I defected in 1973, leaving the presidency of the club to another and having turned over the ILP money to the AKC as the treasurer of the Parent club to someone else. My reason for defecting had nothing to do with the breed but with my arthritis as I needed a smaller breed therefore the Norfolk. Little did I realize I would be hand stripping my little terriers more than I thought.

In those early years the movement of the breed going and coming needed work. In front the Wheaten for the most part crossed over and in the rear they were too close. That’s a lot to fix and some breeders cognizant of the problem worked on structure immediately. There is no breed that’s perfect, not the Wheaten nor my breed the Norfolk, yet it is the conscientious breeder recognizing a problem who tries to make it better.

For the most part the Veterans before me on judging day looked pretty good going and coming. Yes, I’d have to say there’s still work to be done, but I believe the breeders know that and are breeding towards improvement. Interestingly the older Wheatens I judged overall had better bites and cleaner teeth. I have no answer for that except to say possibly those breeders/owners believe in dental care such as brushing teeth. I was torn between my Best of Opposite and the Best in Veteran Sweeps. I really liked both. They moved true, were in condition and were of good type. The winner, the male, just edged over the bitch in the final go around. Both are excellent examples of the breed I believe and their breeders/owners should be proud if these two are examples of their breeding program.

I’d like to thank the Wheaten club for giving me this opportunity and thanks too for the lovely gift. Your committee, many of which, I personally know such as Bob and Pam Tinnelly, Carol Carlson, Marjorie Shoemaker are saints seeing to it everything ran smoothly. My steward was perfect! Please thank her for me as she made my record keeping easy. It was fun and again, THANKS.

BVSW: GCH Dhowden American Dream
(Ch Frolic’s Squeeze Play x CDhowden C’dardreams Of Cardiff) Breeder/Owner: Denise Bendelewski.

BOSVSW: CH Marymore Banner Gabriel’s Choice
(Ch Hullabaloo Alchemyst x Ch Marymore First Triple Axel) Breeders: Susan Shaw & Mary Peltier. Owners: John & Pam Mandeville & Mary Peltier.
I had long hoped to have the honor of judging Puppy Sweepstakes at our national specialty. Imagine my delight when I was asked to do so at our 50th anniversary show. Cool temperatures, overcast skies and a brisk breeze greeted me as I welcomed my first puppies in the ring.

I asked for a ramp mostly for the benefit of those ringside. As a spectator, I had appreciated being able to see the dogs up and out of the grass, so I chose the ramp for that reason. The puppies didn’t seem to mind either. I was struck with the overall confidence and happy attitudes of the puppies both on the ramp and on the go. I was also greatly impressed with the quality of the entry. Coats were lovely as were most of the ears. Mouths were also very good.

As a breed, we are still plagued with straight fronts and short upper arms. The length of upper arm should equal the length of leg and shoulder; it many cases it was too short and was poorly angulate, creating restricted movement in the front.

6-9 Months Puppy Dogs

1st-Kinsale’s Admiral Brodie – An adorable puppy who was very balanced, wore a lovely coat, and moved effortlessly. He is one to watch.

2nd-Bon Aquarel Party Animal At Almar’s - A bigger puppy, he was happy to be in the ring this day.

9-12 Months Puppy Dogs

1st-Greentree Cayenne Dancer – Very square in outline. Good amount of butt behind the tail. Moved out very well.

2nd-Pitterpat Allons-Y – Another dog square in outline with a lovely coat and striking headpiece. He was a bit tentative on the day.

3rd-Villanova Blame It On The Bossanova– a beautifully-coated dog, he was longercast than the two placements before him. I also felt he could use more butt behind the tail.

4th-Another square dog with a pretty coat, he didn’t feel like showing today. Very nice size.

12-15 Months Junior Dog

1st-Star Mr: Huckleberry Finnigan – While he was a singleton in this class, he represented himself well. He presented a very square outline though was upright in the front which impeded his side gait.

15-18 Months Junior Dogs

1st-Avalyn’s Been Waiting For You – I loved this dog as soon as he walked in the ring. He was the proper size with a lovely adolescent coat. He moved easily around the ring, and his rock-solid topline and outline held as he covered ground.

2nd-Marchwind I Dreamed I was Flying – What a beautiful head on this dog! The planes of the head were even and clean and he had a dark, almond-shaped, properly-placed eye. Would have liked a better tailset on him.

3rd-Cuileann Rumor Has It – This was a dog with a properly balanced length of ribcage to length of loin so presented a moderately square outline. Short upper arm impeded his movement.

4th-Marchwind All That You Dream – Littermate to the 2nd place dog, he presented a similar outline. His shorter ribcage and longer loin made for a longercast dog.

6-9 Months Puppy Bitches

1st-Rosheen Espressione Supremma – She had the best ears of the day, both in size and set. She had
adorable expression and was square in outline. She’s fancy in the front right now but that should improve with maturity.

2nd-Marymore Essence of Starlight – This feminine girl was clothed in a lovely coat. She would benefit from more angulation particularly in the front.

3rd-Heirloom Take a Chance on Me – Long, clean head on this puppy and she had an easy side gait.

4th-Kinsale’s Talia Tarlu – Puppy wasn’t too happy about being at the show today. She could use more length of head.

9-12 Months Puppy Bitches

1st-Marquee’s Love Potion Number One – A lovely, feminine bitch, she oozed type and also had a solid topline. She moved around the ring effortlessly. She pushed very hard for the overall win.

2nd-Seredipity’s Urban Legend – Striking from the moment she walked in the ring, this puppy caught my eye with her style and type.

3rd-CharMax’s Juicy Dazzles. I appreciated her square outline and proper size.

4th-Holweit’s Charlotte’s web – This youngster did not want to be examined today. I’m sure she’ll have better days in the future.

12-15 Months Junior Bitches

What a beautiful class of bitches. Each of these girls took my breath away when she entered the ring.

1st-Bonney Labor Of Love – What lovely balance this girl had! From the length of head to neck to back to length of leg, she also had the proper amount of bone while maintaining her femininity. Her movement was graceful as she easily covered ground.

2nd-Jendu Out of the Blue - Another bitch well up on leg, she moved around the ring in excellent form. She pushed the class winner hard but her coat wasn’t quite as good.

3rd-Kaler Star Ice Ice Baby – perfect square in outline, she showed herself to perfection (with a little help from her handler!) She would benefit from a bit longer head.

4th-Acacia’s Samhill Gypsy – After she got over her distraction from the post hole digger, she moved very well around the ring. Pretty coat on a typy bitch.

15-18 Months Bitches

1st-Banner Marymore Double Triple Axel – Moderate, beautifully-coated bitch. She pulled herself together to move well when she needed to and won this competitive class.

2nd-Greentree Gold Charm – a very square girl and proper size, showed very well. She would have benefited from carrying less coat.

3rd-Cuileann Dirty Laundry – Moved around the ring well but not on the down and back. Coat was not her fortune today.

4th-Ellora Over to You – Square with a pretty coat. Tailset could be improved.

When my final lineup of eight Wheatens entered the ring, I was overwhelmed with the quality of it. I don’t think I could have made a mistake no matter what I did. I chose my two winners based on type combined with elegance, a good length of leg, and the ability to hold their toplines as they moved in the ring. Bonney Labor of Love took top honors as Best in Sweepstakes and the distaff honors went to Avalyn’s Been Waiting For You.

Thank you for this terrific day; it will remain one of the highlights my life.
BISW: Bonney Labor of Love
(Pitterpat Working On A Dream x Ch Bonney Apple Of My Eye) Breeders/Owners: Bonney Snyder & Victoria & Dave Gosnell.

BOSSW: Avalyn’s Been Waiting for You
(CH Trebol Top Billing OA OAJ NAP NJP x CH Canopy Road’s Sundance Festival) Breeders: John & Jan McKamey & Dennis & Bonnie Wirth. Owners: John & Juliana McKamey.

High In Trial
GCH Jendu Outlaw UD TD OAP OJP RA
Breeder: Dana Frady. Owners: JoAnne Vogt & Dana Frady
I would first like to thank the membership of the SCWTCA for inviting me to judge the 50th Anniversary Specialty. I am truly honored, and I had a wonderful time. The breed has always held a special spot in my heart and to be able to pass on such a wonderful entry just made the day that much more enjoyable. I was particularly impressed with the depth of quality. With few exceptions, every one of the dogs deserved to be there that day. You are all to be congratulated on your dedication and perseverance as breeders. It has paid off.

In my opinion, the breed is in a better place today than it has been for quite some time. This is not to say that there are not areas where attention needs to be paid. I saw no bad bites, but did find a few mouths with small, crowded/scrambled incisors. Ear sets were for the most part good, but I’m still seeing some dogs with big ears and ears that flare out. Eye shape was good as was the color. I do not remember seeing any light eyes. A few heads were too short, and a few too big. Coats were good, but in some cases the dogs with the nicest waves also tended to have coats on the harsh side. There were more than a few guard hairs. There were also some coats with too much grey, black, or blue running through them. As stated in the standard, color “must be clearly wheaten with no evidence of any other color.”

Some dogs were a bit too long in the loin. Remember, this is a breed that is square in outline, measured from the sternum to post sternum and from withers to ground. As with many of the terrier breeds, the length of upper arm and correct layback of shoulder was not what it should be in more than a few of the exhibits. This resulted in mincing movement and incorrect outline. A Wheaten should stand over itself; it should not have the outline of a Fox Terrier. Overall, however, I truly believe I saw a breed that is headed in the right direction.

Basically, what I was looking for, as the exhibits came into the ring, was a square, medium-sized dog/bitch with a somewhat long head in balance with the body, set on a moderately long neck, allowing for correct carriage, a clear, abundant, wheaten-colored jacket, and an attitude that said, “I’m here to have a good time.” If they were able to cover ground as well, so much the better. On closer examination, I was looking for smooth well-laid back shoulders, good length and return of upper arm, allowing the dog to stand over the front legs. Presence of a keel was a definite plus. I was also looking for good rear angulation with long thighs and short hocks. Happily I was able to find that in almost all of the classes, and in the great majority of my placements. The following critique centers on those exhibits that really stood out and left a lasting impression on me. I will begin with the dogs and follow with the bitches.

The first class, 6-9 month puppy, Kinsales Admiral Brodie, was a single entry, but what a nice entry he was. I think he probably would have taken the class even had there been competition. He presented a nice square outline, a beautiful head, and nice soft coat and good attitude.

The 9-12 month puppy, and BW/WD, Greentree Cayenne Dancer, was an outstanding young dog - correct size and outline with a wonderfully soft coat. Probably could have had a bit more wave, but I think that will come with the mature coat. He had a beautiful head and expression with nice small ears, set on an equally pretty neck, smooth shoulders and good length of upper arm. He moved well and had a great attitude.

Bred-by dog, Aran Midnight in Paris, was very similar to the WD. Square outline, wonderful coat, nice head, and a good mover.

Open dog, RWD Cameron Delayed Devotion, had probably the best coat of the day. Deep wheaten color with good soft, silky texture and plenty of wave. Wonderful construction and it showed when he moved. Nice head, neck and topline. Bang on tail set. He really gave the WD a run for his money. The
deciding factor for me was substance. He had a bit more than I like in a Wheaten.

BOB, CH Reyem’s Red Rover Come Over, was a correct-sized dog that I could not stop looking at. From the initial line up to the final cut, I found myself going back to him over and over. Beautifully put together, with a good soft, silky, wavy coat. Nice head and expression with small ears. He covered ground well and when brought into the center of the ring to spar, he pulled himself up with correct terrier attitude and looked at the other dogs as if to say – “bring it on.” At that moment it was his to lose.

Select Dog, GCH Caraway Baryshnikov By Tyrone, another very nice correct-sized dog, beautifully presented and nicely put together.

Four bitches in particular stand out in my mind.

WB, also from the 9-12 month puppy class, Serendipity’s Urban Legend, is an absolutely stunning young bitch. Very similar to my WD, in fact I actually thought they might be litter mates. Good size and construction. Great coat for her age and covered ground well. Great expression and put down to perfection.

RWB, from the Open Class, Kaler Star Ice Ice Baby. A beautiful bitch, she caught my eye the moment she came into the ring. Very, very similar to the WB, it could have gone either way.

BOS, CH Waterford’s Coventry Caper. This lovely bitch has everything I was looking for – correct size, square outline, well-balanced, moderately long head, with great expression, moderately long neck, set on smooth, well-laid back shoulders and nice return of upper arm. Dead level top line that held when she moved. Good bend of stifle and short hocks. Beautiful soft and silky coat with just the right amount of wave. On another day she could easily have won the breed.

Select Bitch, GCH Doubloon’s Extreme Play. Another beautiful bitch with everything going for her. I would have liked her just a tad shorter in length which was the deciding factor between her and the BOS bitch.

My five AOMs, GCH Bonney New England Patriot, CH Orion Trebol Hot Like Me, CH Waterford Carnival (litter brother to Caper), CH Reyem’s Saddle Up and Ride, and Villanova Blame It On The Bossanova are all outstanding examples of the breed, and possessed the attributes I feel are important to good Wheaten type. Unfortunately, each fell just a hair short of my top winners.

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity with a wonderful breed and a wonderful group of people.

BOB: CH Reyem’s Red Rover Come Over
(CH Whindancer Waiting On The World To Change x CH Reyem’s Dressed For Dancing) Breeder: Gwen Meyer. Owners: Richard & Laurie Hager & Gwen Meyer.

BOS: CH Waterford’s Coventry Caper
WD/BW: Greentree Cayenne Dancer
(CH Greentree Keepsake Tobasco Cat x CH Greentree Wind Dancer) Breeder: Donna & John Baird & Beverly & Kevin McDonald. Owners: Robert Reey & Beverly McDonald.

WB: Serendipity’s Urban Legend

RWD: Cameron Delayed Devotion
(Villa Rosas Peddyr x Cameron Hot-Lips) Breeder/Owner: Helene Hulthen.

RWB: Kaler Star Ice Ice Baby
(CH Briarlyn Star Hunter’s Quest x CH Star Burst In The Skye) Breeders: Denise Daniel & Matt Milko.

SB: GCH Doubloon’s Extreme Play
(GCH Doubloon’s Salt Of The Earth x CH Doubloon’s Ultimate Player) Breeder/Owner: Elena Landa.

AOM: GCH Bonney New England Patriot
(CH Harbour Hill Mike Delfino x CH Jamboree Tres Amigas) Breeders: Bonney Snyder, Jocelyn Slatin & Barbara Fain. Owner: Bonney Snyder.
AOM: CH Waterford Carnival
(GCH Dhowden American Dream x CH Waterford Frolic O’ Prescott) Breeders/Owners: Cheryl Turner & Marjorie Shoemaker.

AOM: Villanova Blame it on the Bossanova
(GCH Sho-Well’s Bree’s Boy Toy x GCH Bossanova Calkiem Inny Piesek) Breeder/Owner: Cynthia Phelps.

AOM: CH Reyem’s Saddle Up and Ride
(CH Mil Mear Geragold Cowboy Up x CH Reyem’s Dressed For Dancing) Breeders: Kay L. Baird & Gwen Meyer.

AOM: GCH Orion Trebol Hot Like Me
(CH Candance Daze Of Thunder x CH Acacia’s Some Like It Hot VCD2 RE MXP AJP NFP) Breeders/Owners: Betsy Geertson & Guillermo Rueda.

Stud Dog: GCH Showell’s Bree’s Toy Boy
(CH Keepsake’s The Chaz Singer x CH Sho-well’s RX For Love) Breeder: Marilyn Stowell. Owner: Kathi Elliot.

Brood Bitch: GCH Bossanova Calkiem Inny Piesek
(CH Nugat Awangarda Pszeniczna x CH Aschawlta Wheaten Lullaby) Breeder: Pawel Adamski. Owner: Cynthia Phelps.
LOGIE

2012 Award of Merit MCKC
2010 Winners Dog MCKC
Wrangler: Gwen Meyer

We couldn't be more proud of these two youngsters. A very special thank you to Judge Ken Kauffman for finding their qualities. Deepest gratitude to Harold, Cathy, Dick and Laurie for all they have done and the love they have for their boys.

CH REYEM’S SADDLE UP N RIDE

In limited showing winning back to back 5 point majors at the St. Louis Specialties onto Best of Breed at the 2012 National Specialty Montgomery County Kennel Club.

Game Player: Kent Meyer

CH REYEM'S RED ROVER COME OVER

Breeder: Gwen Meyer  Owners: Richard and Laurie Hager and Gwen Meyer
SCWT CHAMPION and PERFORMANCE TITLES

July - September 2012

Compiled by Sheila O'Connell

**DOG**

Ch Acacia Rosceen Samoset
Ch Acacia's Some Like It Hot VCD2 RE MXP MJP NFP
Arwan Twisted Logic OA AJX
Ch Aziedco Starlight Savannah Annabella
MACH4 Ballybae Katie's Uptown Girl CD MXB2 MJB2 MXF
Ballymena Ronan Hangis CDX NAP OF
Ch Bon Aquarelle Nightingale Song At Li'l Town
Ch Bradberry's Schnitzl Magure
Ch Bradberry's Summer Fiona Lilly
Catharnach's Breathie O'Reilly RE
MACH2 Cell's Hot Tempor Leaps CDX MXG MJB2 OAP OF
Ch Cela Field Of Hidden Treasures
Ch Cullln Ace Of Cakes
GChDiamonds Cactus Cash

Dundalk's Flash Of Lightning AX AJX NF
MACH Dunfrac's Red Gate Renegade MXS MJS OF
Edgewood Discovery CD RA
Ch Enrgio Dancing Through Life
Ch Gemstne As Your Fortune Comes
Ch Greentree Cayenne Dancer
Ch Greentree Rachael Alexander
GCH Greentree Storm Catcher
Ch Haldane Colors Of The Sun
GCh Haldane Double Down
Ch Herirloom Dean's Impossible Dream
Ch Herirloom Nobody Does It Better
Ch Islander's Jamakin Waves
GCh Jndu Cela Everlasting Hona Lulu
GCh Jndu Outlaw VCD2 UD RA OAJ
MACH9 Joy-Dells New Years Malley MXS3 MJC3 MXF MBF TDQ
GCh Lissadell Teller Of Tall Tales
Littl Guy Quigley NA OAJ
Ch Lontree Prairie Star OA OAJ NAP OF THD
Ch Lovesong's Here Comes The Sun
Ch Mackamme Dutch Design RE MXP3 MXB4 MJP
Ch Li'l Town Lulaby's Shenanigan of Ardmacass
Ch Li'l Town Mat On The Fairway
GCh Lithore The World According To Me
Lissadell High Button Shoes CDX BN GN RAE2 OF
Ch Lissadell Sings For His Supper MX MXJ AXP AJP OF
GCh Lissadell Teller Of Tall Tales
Littl Guy Quigley NA OAJ

**SIRE**

Ch Whindancer's Heart Like A Wheel
Ch Wheaten Rebel's Odessa File
Ch Gleannag Holiday
Ch Starlight Master Of The Game
Ch Brys Rose Degas
Crispas Easy Bonaquarel
Ch Candance Daze Of Thunder
GCh Shandalee Rocket Science
GCh O'Mahony
Ch Chorosochi Druja's Njinjsky
Ch Bon Aquarelle Bittersweet For Aalmar
Ch Acacia's Music Of The Night
GCh Greentree Keepsake Tobacco Cat
Ch Westridge High Adventure CDX GN RAE NAP OF
Ch Jndu's Jamakin Me Krazy
Ch Honeynee's Bye My Fair Whind
Ch Enrgio Rise Above The Mist
Ch Baroque Top Shelf Hunkane
GCh Greentree Keepsake Tobacco Cat
GCh Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man
GCh Greentree Real Quiet
Ch Whindancer's Heart Like A Wheel
Ch Rollefan Danny Boy O'Li'l Town
Ch Whindancer's Sweet Baby James
Ch Whindancer's Sweet Baby James
GCh Byn Rose Symbol Of Paris
GCh Greentree Real Quiet
Ch Jndu Fleur De Lis
Ch Edgewood At The Apollo
Ch Gleannag Derring-Do RN OA NAJ
Ch Modney Style Great Expectations
Ch Kaler Whole In One
Ch Stratford The World Revolves Around Me
GCh Glamour Boot Scoot'n Cowboy
Ch Lissadell Dotcom
Ch Aran About Face
Ch Paisley Power Play
Ch Whindancer Little Ball Of Fire
Honeynee's Lord Of My Heart
Ch Marymore Hot Pepper Jack
GCh Jndu 24 Karat Of Morningstar
Ch Candance Daze Of Thunder
Ch Jndu's Son Top Brass
GCh Gleannag Byn Scoot'n Cowboy
Ch Lissadell Dotcom
Ch Aran About Face
Ch Paisley Power Play
Ch Whindancer Little Ball Of Fire
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Ch Marymore Hot Pepper Jack
GCh Jndu 24 Karat Of Morningstar
Ch Candance Daze Of Thunder
Ch Jndu's Son Top Brass
GCh Gleannag Byn Scoot'n Cowboy
Ch Lissadell Dotcom
Ch Aran About Face

**DAM**

Ch Acacia's Hot Lava
Ch Acacia's Asting
Ch Aran Built A Betr Mouse Trap
Mynisheyes Queen Machada
Ch Ballybae Rosie's Katie Too
Bon Aquarelle Irish Red Sun
Ch Bradberry's Alexandra Grace Kelly
Ch Bradberry's Tiger Lilly Zoe
Catharnach's All Hallows Eve
Ch MACH Cel's Calypso CDX RA MXG MUG OAP OF
Ch Jndu Pocket Full Of Posies
Ch Cullinn 007
GCh Diamonds Breakfast At Tiffany'S
Ch Dundalk Redhill Garden Of Good And Evil
Dunfrac's Mira's Classy Lady
Ch Edgewood Manhattan Isle Chorus
Ch Enrgio Playing With Fire VCD1 RE AX AJX NF
Gemstone's Carolina Queen
Ch Greentree Wind Dancer
Greentree Preakness Clover
Ch Wheaten Rebel's Eye Of Destruction
Ch Haldane Back Stage Pass
Ch Haldane Wild Abandon RN
Ch Heilroom Hey Good Lookin' RN
Ch Heilroom Hey Good Lookin' RN
Ch Islander's Girl Talk
Ch Jndu Pocket Full Of Posies
Ch Greentree Skellig's Jndu Taboo
Joy-Dell's Kelly Stormrin Nite
Ch Dernyi One For The Money
Ch Li'l Town Lulaby Of Ardmacass
Ch Li'l Town Braveheart Irish Mist
Ch Stratford The World Revolves Around Me
Lissadell Splash
Andover Big Story
Andover Big Story
Ch Lontree Cactus Calt
Ch Lovesong's New Day Dawning
Ch Dogside's Love Potion For Bodosca
Ch Marymore Legacy Renaissance
GCh Michaleen's Song O'Morning Star
Ch Acacia's Some Like It Hot VCD2 RE MXP MJP NFP
Ch Acacia's Some Like It Hot VCD2 RE MXP MJP NFP
Ch Acacia's Some Like It Hot VCD2 RE MXP MJP NFP
Ch Reyem's Dressed For Dancing
Princess Smiles
GCh Acacia's Bat Out O'Hel
GCh Acacia's Bat Out O'Hel
GCh Saddlebrook's Good Karma
Ch Acacias Samhill Cowgirl
Ch Sarwilly Anno's Song
Ch Shar-D's I Lux Lucie
Ch Star Burst In The Skye
Ch Stratford All The World's A Stage
Ch Sho-Well's RX For Love
Ch Tiffen's Tanzante What A Gem
Ch Geragold Orla Finlandia
Ch Trébol Take It From The Top

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Perri was born a lady and still is to this day. Dignified, well-mannered, loving, and patient, she has been a constant source of pride to all who love her; several friends who have hosted her have offered to adopt her! She still puts up with the endless “nudging” of her daughter, the ever-present CH Shandalee Rocket Fire (“Roxie”), who is merciless in constantly trying to goad her 14-year-old mother into rough-and-tumble play. Perri will give a look of, “Please get this kid away from me!” but never rejects her advances.

She was our pick of a lovely litter representing six generations of Shandalee breeding, and she finished her championship at 13 months with 4 majors, going Breed over Specials. Dam of four champions and other pointed offspring in only two litters, Perri is the granddam of Roxie’s son, GCH. Shandalee Rocket Science, the current #1 Wheaten dog, all-breeds. She has happily piloted our young granddaughters to Best Junior Handler in several match shows and been the Wheaten ambassador at various local libraries and at the AKC Meet the Breeds, where she would be highly offended if people walked by the Wheaten booth without petting her! She has been a model citizen; our “demo dog” for teaching Wheaten grooming basics to prospective puppy buyers, is beloved by her entire extended family and still runs, jumps, eats well, sees well, hears well, and knows all. It’s obvious she has our hearts!

Beloved by Sue and Harvey Goldberg, Wheatens of Shandalee.
Brew is my boy, or more accurately, I am his person. It has always been that way. It’s his mission in life to know where I am every minute and to make sure he’s right there with me. At home – in the car – in the yard – on walks – he’s right there.

Brew was the last puppy of four born at Genie and Bob Kline’s home in Wetumpka, Alabama. He took his time arriving – that should have told us what life was to be like going forward.

I thought one of the females would be mine, but Brew flashed those deep, dark eyes and I was lost. “I’m having a boy,” I said to Genie.

Brewdy likes things on his terms and he likes to take his time. He’s sweet and agreeable, charming and friendly, and every so often is just plain stubborn. The boy is beginning to show his age. He is very healthy, but he is definitely slowing down. He has moderate tendonitis and bursitis in one shoulder – a remnant from an old “athletic injury” – and there is likely arthritis in his hips. He’s not crazy about going up and down stairs anymore. He makes a fuss about going for a walk, but take three steps out the door and his tail is up, ears forward, nose to the wind. Ever curious.

Owner: Sandy Hurd
Breeders: Genie & Bob Cline

Stratford Vagabond Heart - “Scarlett”
(CH Heartstrings Toast to Tara ROM x CH Stratford Points ‘N Plugs)
DOB: November 4, 1998

A beautiful puppy, Scarlett tried her hand in the show ring in Colorado, California, and Pennsylvania. While she took home her share of ribbons, she really didn’t like the whole gig. When she was a year old, Jerry Middleton and Azantha Andrle appeared in her life. They were looking for a Wheaten but really didn’t want a little puppy. At a show site, I suggested to Azantha that she take Scarlett for a walk. Scarlett walked off as if she had found her soul mate, and indeed she had – two of them. With them she has been the consummate traveler: Ralls, Texas (a 564 mile trip), Tabernash, CO, The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, coffee shops, restaurants and most of the Catholic churches - wherever they go, she goes.

Now 14 years old, Scarlett still goes everywhere with Jerry and Azantha. She has her own driver’s license and business card. She still loves to have her ears tugged and to go on her daily walks. She has truly been a special blessing to Jerry and Azantha.

Owners: Azantha Andrle & Jerry Middleton
Breeder: Molly O’Connell
“OK what’s next?” That’s what Caitie is saying right there in the photo. Early every morning we go out for a long hike or walk in the park. Caitie is so alive, alert and attentive, always ready to go anywhere at any time! She is very active, and loves to run on the trails, or play at the park here in Tucson Arizona. Caitie, and now her daughter Cally, both live here with me and are such joys to be around.

When it’s time to go anywhere in the car, Caitie comes alive and cannot wait to go. She also greets anyone whom she encounters. I take both girls most everywhere I can. They are both so friendly and love children, adults, other dogs, and each other. They make friends and bring smiles to everyone’s faces where ever they go. I feel so blessed to have them both in my life. Caitie also added so much to the Wheaten world. She is the dam of seven beautiful AKC champions from the whelping box of Joy Laylon, her breeder and first owner.

I am an alternative health care provider, and I do like to take Caitie and Cally with me when I treat clients because they are naturally soothing to those who are in pain. Caitie has actually trained herself to be a very special therapy dog. It’s quite remarkable. After observing her many times, I noticed Caitie consistently positions herself as close as possible to where someone has tension in their bodies. She is very accurate too. Nowadays I’ve learned to pay close attention to her. She has such a sweet soothing presence as well. She is the best and I love her! Happy 13th Birthday Caitie!

Owner: Nan Raden
Breeder: Joy Laylon
The origin of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier is lost in the mists of Ireland’s past. The when, where, and how lie in unrecorded history of people who were too busy trying to make a living on a hard, unforgiving land. Their lives were controlled by laws put on them by the English landlords who owned most of the country. Because of this background, we really need to look at what was happening in Ireland at the time we think this breed evolved to understand its temperament.

The English tried their hardest to break the Irish; they imposed harsh and unrelenting laws on the country. The English Penal Laws from 1691 to 1801 were put in place to try to run the farmer from his land so the English could own it. Another blow came when the potato famine devastated the countryside from 1845 to about 1849. From the beginning of this famine until about 1911, the population of Ireland dropped from somewhere around 8.8 million to 4.4 million; either the people left or died from hunger.

The typical farmer was poor and illiterate. If he traveled from home by horse and cart, it wasn’t more than 10 to 20 miles in a lifetime. That is, if he could afford the luxury of keeping a horse. The Irish livestock had to be strong and hardy to live in this climate. Dogs needed to be tough and to serve a purpose; there was no room for anything other than a working animal.

The Irish dogs needed to be able to alert the family of people approaching, to kill rodents, and to help with herding the livestock. It can also be noted that these early dogs were most likely poachers because the Irish people were not allowed to hunt the English lord’s forest. This required cunning and skill because if the dog was caught, it was shot by the lord’s men.

Despite all of this adversity, the Irish kept their sense of humor and love of song and dance. As hard as the English tried, they could not break the Irish spirit.

My theory is that from this setting came two types of dogs with different temperaments: the “out in the farmyard dog” and the “under the kitchen table dog.”

The “farmyard” dog was tough and reactive to things going on around him. He had to be clever to survive. These dogs may have been the herders and poachers. They whelped in the hedgerow or barn if the farmer was lucky enough to have a barn.

The “kitchen” dog may have been a little softer in attitude in order to live in the home. This dog killed the rodents that most likely lived in those thatched
He played with the farmer’s children, ate scraps from the table, and whelped inside.

I feel these temperaments ran to both ends of the spectrum - from soft or spooky to tough/clever or aggressive. I am sure there was no room for the very soft or the very aggressive. That left the middle: the smart, clever, adaptable dog who could read a situation and react in the right manner.

And so that leads us to our Soft Coated Wheatens of today. We wonder about the temperaments of the early imported dogs. What was asked of them? What did the American pet public ask of their dogs? These are all good questions that breeders of today should reflect on.

All this leads to the questions of what is a good show dog temperament, what is a good pet temperament, and now, adding to the mix, what is a good performance temperament? Are they one-and-the-same or are they different?

Show dogs need to be “up” in the ring but quiet in the setup and on the road traveling from show to show. But let’s face it: this time is a small portion of their lives; most go home to be family pets. And this leads us to pet temperament. What does the average pet home require of their dogs? A pet needs to be a respectable member of the family, not jump on company (or bite them), not bark or tear up things.

On the other hand, now that I have gotten into the sport of agility, I see a desire for a dog with a keener prey drive and a more “up” attitude. This sport also requires what is called a biddable temperament, a willingness to take direction. What is needed is a smart dog with a lot of drive but who has power to turn off that drive when asked. This may mean a dog you need to spend a lot of time training at the beginning. Is this the temperament you could put in a pet home? Is this the original “out-in-the-farmyard dog”?

Where is the “under-the-kitchen-table dog?” Is this the dog the average pet home requires? I find the pet homes that get the most out of their dogs at least train them and follow through.

All these dogs end up needing to be easy to live with in our homes, but what is the ideal temperament we are looking for?

I know I have raised more questions than I have answers for, but I think this is a subject that needs serious, open discussion.

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**New Open Registry Members**  
**October 19, 2012**

The Open Registry is a joint project of SCWTCA-sponsored research at NC State University, University of PA and the University of Guelph (Canada). Its purpose is to publish information on confirmed cases of genetic diseases in Wheatens and to maintain health and genetic records for SCWTCA-sponsored research. Dr. Meryl Littman at Penn maintains the Registry at the request of SCWTCA.

Members of the Open Registry agree to forward pedigrees and medical data for all Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers they own, have owned, or bred who may be affected with Protein-losing Enteropathy/Nephropathy, Addison’s Disease, Renal Dysplasia or Irritable Bowel Disease to the SCWT Open Registry, c/o Dr. Littman. For membership form, visit SCWTCA web site at [http://scwtca.org/documents/health/or_membershipform_20100630.pdf](http://scwtca.org/documents/health/or_membershipform_20100630.pdf). For a complete list of Open Registry members, e-mail kccarlson@comcast.net.

Denise Daniel  
Leslie Henry  
Gregory & Sandy Reburn  
Janet Verlinde

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Birthday Burdens and Consequences

First, I want to thank you all for making another Montgomery birthday so festive. Wheaten people are the best!!

Unfortunately, after a celebration, a reality check always sets in. I just can’t keep up. I don’t own an iPhone, I don’t text, and I won’t even use the phone while driving. I read slowly, need more sleep, and navigate very carefully. But at least I’m not obsolete…like “old white men”… because finally, I’m the dominant gender! My 93-year-old husband is first in line to applaud the ascendency of influence of women. Just as I was gloating over my new status along came the reality check. I had become really smug about understanding basic genetics. I could understand why our scientists insist that we type out “heterozygous” and “homozygous” when the shortcut of using numbers was so facile. And long ago I understood that even in science, absolute certainty is not a viable concept. That is why I’m an agnostic. Now along comes a new challenge.

There is a terrific article, “Germs Are Us,“ in the October 25th issue of the New Yorker magazine. Germs, bacteria - we have known of them forever in the context that they are the enemy. They cause disease, and must be eliminated from our environment. Although we have a major bacteria-fighting industry in this country, that can no longer be the mission. The cutting edge in science is now microbiology. The National Institutes of Health in 20007 started the Human Biome Project, aiming to map the human biome. (Each species has its own biome.) When humans arrived on the planet, Earth was already occupied by countless bacteria and other microbes. Gradually, they became part of the human system.

Meet helibactor pylori…it migrated from Africa; it has been part of our species for at least 2,000 years. In 1982 it was discovered to be the principal cause of gastric and peptic ulcers and an increased risk of stomach cancer. Medical science had antibiotics to rid the body of the bacteria and cure the disease. Medicine had already started its war on germs, employing antibiotics to save many lives. However, further thinking led to another thought. How could an organism survive all those years if it was dangerous to its host? That is not how evolution works. Yes, germs make us sick, but since our bodies carry a trillion or more microbes - bacteria mostly, but viruses too - is it possible that they can be a positive influence on our health? Scientists have discovered that H pylori causes severe problems in older people. They have also discovered a correlation between its absence and a greater incidence of asthma in young children. This increase has corresponded to the increasing use of antibiotics, especially for respiratory illness. This happens in developed countries where antibiotics are used to such an extent that young people have few in their systems as compared to those in primitive areas where the previous ratio holds.

Right now medicine (human and veterinary) is assiduously removing these pathogens and perhaps depriving us of substances we need to live. I urge you to read this article by Michael Spector. He is easily understood and compelling. The cutting edge of microbiology today is examining the genetic makeup of these microbes, and each species has its own micro biome. The National Institutes of Health has started to map the Human Biome Project, and the European Commission and China joined with the Human Intestinal Tract Project.

How will this affect our approach to canine health issues? I chuckled when I started to read the article. We “dog people” have long been aware of “good bacteria.” At least 30 years ago I started to supplement my dogs’ diets with antibiotic powders. These were to aid digestion, and today we feed probiotics and yogurt to counteract those antibiotics.

And that brings up another topic many of us are pondering. What is it about our long-life survivors who carry two markers, making them homozygous positive, that allowed them to escape PLN?

Obviously we have a lot of scientific research in our future. Meanwhile, keep in mind that old adage…let’s not throw out the baby with the bath water.
AIDEN... BOS SCWTCA SWEEPSTAKES 2012
Sincere appreciation to Judge Molly O'Connell

Breeders: John & Jan McKamey
Dennis & Bonnie Wirth
Owners: John & Juliana McKamey
Beautifully handled by: Juliana McKamey

AVALYN’S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU
CH Trebol Top Billing OA OAJ NAP NJP
x
CH Canopy Road's Sundance Festival

Avalyn Wheatens
www.avalynwheatens.webs.com

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The annual fun match and Wheaten picnic of the SCWTCGM was held on Sunday, September 2nd at the home of Nancy and Jim Andersen. It was a beautiful day; gone was the hot steamy weather. To our delight, attendees included several new owners of Wheaten puppies. Lily visited with everyone and enjoyed Jim’s gardening efforts. What could be better than to play around recently-watered tomatoes? Granddaughter, daughter, and grandmother - Erica, Ellie, and Erin – made a special appearance. Abby had fun visiting with everyone and running through the agility tube. Maddie was fashionably dressed in her pink bandana. Nikki was the youngest dog at 11 weeks. Kandi was the oldest at 11 years.

Chef extraordinaire Jim showed his skills at the grill and cooked top-notch hamburgers and brats. Everyone delighted at the Jello cut-outs of Wheaten terriers.

The best thing of all was the opportunity to visit with friends and their wonderful Wheatens.

Fun Days!!

Milwaukee Summer Picnic

Kandi at 11 years old
A cold, soggy Sunday morning greeted SCWTC of Southern California volunteers early on October 21st as they met at Gabrielino Park in Los Angeles’ San Fernando Valley to prepare for the club’s 18th annual Fun Day. Held in conjunction with all-breed Los Encinos KC’s B Match, the omens augured for Fun Day to morph into the proverbial rainout, drenched in California “liquid sunshine.”

Intrepid members of both clubs pulled EZ-Ups out of cars and vans to provide shelter and, dragged sodden chains and poles across the wet grass to form four show rings. After a passing downpour delayed the schedule by a half-hour, purebred pups gathered for a conformation handling “show-and-go” class, followed by judging of all major AKC groups, as well as CGC testing throughout the day. Our hometown heroine SCWT, Bonney Labor of Love (Gala) - who took Best In Sweepstakes honors at the National Specialty two weeks before -won the Terrier Group. Gala is co-owned by Vickie Gosnell and Bonney Snyder, and was handled by Vickie at the B Match.

By late morning the clouds parted against the backdrop of the San Gabriel Mountains, as well over 40 SCWTCSC members and guests arrived for our festivities. Karla Baer Cohen, our inimitable Mistress of Frivolity, was assisted by the club’s youngest member, Hunter Gill, in judging games and contests that ranged from youngest to oldest Wheaten; biggest nose; smallest tail; best trick performer; and other dubious distinctions. Karla and Hunter then launched competitors into fiercely fought underwear races; musical squares; and the perennial favorite Halloween costume contest. Our annual Parade of Rescues featured three Wheatens who were major success stories for our rescue team this year, promenading happily with their proud forever owners.

Finally, all assembled kept time to the beat of Appawse, a local canine dance troupe starring an Irish setter, a Gordon setter, an Australian shepherd, and a pit bull, along with their human partners who tripped the light fantastic in style. A sumptuous potluck lunch topped off the event and reminded us all that it’s truly all about the dogs...without whom we would have missed such a fine fall day in the park. Many thanks to our Fun Day co-chairs, Beverly Streicher and Vickie Gosnall, for all treats and no tricks except by the dogs!
What’s in a Name - Benchmarks

by Carol Carlson, Paradise, PA

Quoting from a letter of March 2, 1962 which accompanied the first Wheaten publication sent to the 12 owners of the 18 known American Wheatens: “It is our most sincere desire that our publication will create interest where none exists . . . spark an ember that is smoldering . . . or add incentive to an intention. Our aim is ‘to establish a breed club, complete with a Sanctioned Match; recognition of the breed by the American Kennel Club and acknowledgement of the merit due to this oldest of Ireland’s native terrier breeds.’”

The mailing included a questionnaire requesting information about Wheatens along with a post-paid (4 cents) self-addressed envelope. (Subscriptions were free until 1963 when they were $1.00; club membership, $3.00.) The request came from Margaret O’Connor and Ida Mallory, editors of the new publication, Wheaten Wires.

The next issue came out in July 1962 with a new name S/C Wheaten Benchmarks and this explanation from Margaret: “In April you received a copy of Wheaten Wires. It seemed a bit incongruous to write about a soft-coated breed under the title of Wires. The word, itself, has many meanings . . . from telegrams to electrical conduits to wire-haired fox terriers. And I must admit when I used the term, I had the latter in mind. (We have a Wheaten and a Wire – ergo, Wheaten Wires!) However, in the dog world, ‘wires’ is used most generally in this same sense, and this might lead to misunderstanding or confusion about Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers later on.

Hence the change of title to S/C Wheaten Benchmarks. A ‘bench’ in dog show parlance, as most of us are aware, refers to the wooden platform or stall in which a dog is exhibited to the public when not in the ring. A ‘benchmark,’ according to Webster’s International, is ‘a point of reference from which measurements of any sort may be made.’ Since we hope to be able to measure the growth of popularity of Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers through this publication, we feel Benchmarks to be a most appropriate name.”

At first the publication contained actual black and white photos that were pasted individually on each copy. The printing was done on a “ditto” machine in a purple color. I received my first issue in 1966 when there were 71 dogs registered in the Stud Book, and pictures were still a feature. As the circulation grew (there were over 500 club members in 1972), the format remained the same but the pictures were eliminated. The name S/C Wheaten Benchmarks and look continued for 10 years until the AKC recognition of the breed and the change to the present format. Margaret O’Connor and Ida Mallory were the first editors. After Ida moved to Maine, Margaret continued until her death in 1967 when her mother, Cecelia became editor. Benchmarks included human interest stories, show news, club news, new additions to the Stud Book and lists of new owners and members.

Reprinted from Benchmarks Vol. 23:4 March 1996
THE HOLIDAYS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

AND LOOK WHAT’S NEW...

SCWTCA's New 2012 Porcelain Holiday Collectible Ornament

$28.00 includes shipping and handling
All proceeds go to the Health Fund to continue the research that will make a difference in the future of our beloved Wheatens.

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February 11 & 12, 2013. Group and Best In Show will be held at Madison Square Garden as usual on judging, as well as the Junior Showmanship Finals, Monday and Tuesday evenings.

accomplish that, a number of changes are being implemented for the 2013 show. These changes are in an effort to the best quality dog show ever, and to the Westminster legacy of educating the public about purebred dogs and responsible ownership will come front and center once again.

Venues: Breed judging and benching will take place at Piers 92/94 located at West 55th Street and the West Side Highway (12th Avenue), Venues will be included with the judging program.

Benching: All breed benching/judging and Junior Showmanship Preliminaries will take place at Piers 92/94. The Variety Group benching/judging and Junior Showmanship Finals will be held at Madison Square Garden, both evenings. A layout of the venues will be available at the dog's bench. There are no separate grooming areas. All dogs must be benched each day by 11:30 a.m.

Buses for spectators will commence at 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. At 3 p.m., buses for the Best of Breed winners, their people and equipment will leave the Piers and go to MSG early. Exhibitors with BOB winners have priority on ALL buses. Bencing release time for all other dogs and exhibitors at the Piers will be at 6 p.m. Buses will be available to take the remaining dogs back to the three hotels. Dogs and exhibitors have priority but spectators will be allowed to ride if space permits. Buses will continue to make this loop until 8:30 p.m. At 9 p.m., the buses will be available at MSG for dogs and their people to return to the Piers and will continue until 11:30 p.m.

Parking: There is parking available for 300 cars at the Piers on a first-come, first-served basis on top of Pier 92. The cost is approximately $30 with additional parking available at other nearby venues.

Tickets: Tickets will go on sale October 17. Please consult our website for complete description of ticketing and prices.

Vendors: Due to the increased space we are able to accommodate additional vendors. Please check the website for vendor information.

For more information:

- www.westminsterkennelclub.org
- Facebook: WKCDogShow
- Twitter: wkcdogs
- Westminster e-mail: info@westminsterkennelclub.org

New Award: Dogs finishing their championships at Westminster in 2013 are eligible to receive a special bronze medal in commemoration of that win. See details in the premium list on the WKC website for complete rules and procedures regarding entities.

Transportation: Westminster will provide bus transportation to and from The Hotel Pennsylvania, Affinia Manhattan and The New Yorker Hotel for exhibitors and spectators. There will be no charge for this service. Buses will start running at 5:30 a.m. from the hotles and will run every half hour to the Piers, for dogs and exhibitors. The last hotel bus for dog transportation will depart at 11 a.m. as dogs must be benched each day by 11:30 a.m.

1. The Invited Top Five Champions in each breed/variety based on the number of dogs defeated in breed competition only at AKC Licensed or Member shows held from January 1, 2012 through October 31, 2012, inclusive.

2. The Invited Best of Breed winners of AKC Licensed or Member National Breed Club Specialties held from January 1, 2012 through October 31, 2012, inclusive.

3. Non-invited dogs/bitches eligible for Best of Breed competition that have attained their Championship status prior to the submission of the entry for the dog.

4. Non-invited dogs/bitches eligible for Bred by Exhibitor, American Bred and Open classes that have won at least one major award prior to the submission of the entry.

Junior Showmanship is not included in the Breed Entry Limit.
Book Reviews

I am always looking for new books to add to my dog bibliography. When I read the title of the first book, my response was, “yea, right.” Then I saw that the author Sophia Yin, was an acolyte of Ian Dunbar and a well-respected veterinarian and animal behaviorist herself - animal trainer as well, I should say, because she can train chickens do do anything. Watch her video on YouTube teaching chickens to run an agility course. You’ll become a believer too. This year I had puppy buyers purchase Perfect Puppy before taking their puppies home. The response was overwhelmingly positive. The two-page puppy training schedule is worth the price of the book.

The second book is primarily for breeders, but puppy owners would greatly benefit from understanding how dogs learn, and what to expect from breeders. I find Hope’s book validates many of my puppy-rearing practices; I love how it carefully explains reasons for why we should provide specific stimuli at certain ages. Buyers reading this book will be more motivated to continue the conditioning breeders have begun. Both books are easy to read, easy to comprehend, and you just may find you have read the whole book in one sitting. - editor

Perfect Puppy in 7 Days, How to Start your Puppy Off Right by Dr. Sophia Yin DVM MS makes training puppies so quick and fun! With 176 pages and over 400 photos, Dr. Yin explains why puppies do what they do, how even minor modifications in their environment and your interactions can dramatically affect their behavior, and how quickly they can learn when you set them up for success. This visual guide provides readers with a step-by-step plan for bonding with their pup, learning to communicate clearly, and providing the pup with essential life skills.

Raising a puppy successfully takes patience and dedication but the process can be made a whole lot easier by reading Sophia Yin’s excellent book, Perfect Puppy in 7 Days. Packed with the latest information, Dr. Yin takes the reader into the puppy’s world, helping them to not only understand a puppy’s developmental process, but giving useful tips and techniques to ensure that any puppy becomes a happy, confident adult. This book is a must-have for any puppy parent or canine educator. - Victoria Stilwell, Dog Trainer, author, and host of Animal Planet’s It’s Me or the Dog.

This book is a comprehensive and humane guide to puppy behavior and training, incorporating a detailed guide on how to interpret your puppy’s body language. Worth buying for the socialization advice and checklist alone. - John Bradshaw, Ph.D., Director of the University of Bristol’s Anthrozoology Institute, Author of Dog Sense: How the New Science of Dog Behavior Can Make You A Better Friend to Your Pet.

Well-written, factually correct and brilliantly illustrated. I would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone thinking of getting a new puppy. Two paws up for a great contribution! --Dr. Nicholas Dodman, Board Certified Veterinary Behaviorist, Section Head and Program Director, Animal Behavior Department of Clinical Sciences, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.
The Breeder’s Guide to Raising Superstar Dogs: Puppy Development, Imprinting and Training by Jerry Hope. This book very succinctly lays out, in easy-to-read and understandable terms, the sensitive periods of dog development. Better yet, the author explains why they are sensitive periods and exactly what the breeder should be doing during each one. The author also makes some painfully honest statements about what he feels the breeder’s responsibility should be, and unfortunately, why people who breed dogs often do not take this responsibility seriously.

People who are breeding dogs and are not properly educating the puppies, or who allow puppies to leave their mother at too young an age, do everyone a disservice. The problem is people still get puppies from these sources because they do not know any better. This book is an excellent source for puppy buyers to educate themselves about what a good breeder should be providing.

The author goes over the details of what breeders can do to make a lasting impact on the life of the puppy that they helped to bring into the world. The intimate understanding that this author has of the power of imprinting and other early puppy training is passed along to the rest of us in a way that everyone can easily utilize. No matter how you are involved “in dogs,” this book will help to increase your understanding and enjoyment in the relationship that you create with your dog. No matter how you are involved “in dogs” this book will help to increase your understanding and enjoyment in the relationship that you create with your dog. The puppies that come from a program such as this one, will surely be the best dogs that they can be: Superstar Dogs! - Brenda Aloff, Midland, MI.


This is a delightful book. A super book! Wonderfully well-written and overflowing with numerous practical tips for raising puppies to have solid temperaments, dynamite demeanors and stellar dispositions - true SuperStar Dogs! Every breeder and every prospective puppy owner should read this book. - Ian Dunbar Ph.D, BVetMed, MRCVS; Founder of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers.

If all breeders followed Jerry Hope’s Superstar Program, there would be fewer dogs in shelters, fewer behavior problems, happier owners, and many, many more well-socialized dogs. In short, the world would be a better place for dogs and their people. - Nicole Wilde, CPDT, author of Help for Your Fearful Dog and So You Want to be a Dog Trainer.

To call this book a breeder’s guide does not do the amount of information and common sense advice held within these pages justice. This is a book for everyone thinking of owning a dog, already owning a dog and those wishing to develop a wonderful companion. By building a solid foundation of behavior and brainpower in a pup, we have a solid base from which to train and grow. To understand your dog and help him become a responsible canine citizen others admire is more than just rewarding, it brings a partnership and love that lasts for a lifetime. In the chapters of this book, there is a wealth of practical common sense and fun interactions with your pup that will have you understanding, guiding and enjoying your pup and in doing so will help you create that rich human/canine bond we all long for.--- Martin Deeley IACP CDT ~ Co-Founder International Association of Canine Professionals ~ UK Gundog Trainer of the Year 2007 ~ Author, Working Gun Dogs, An Introduction to Training and Handling.

Book description were excerpted from Dogwise at www.dogwise.com
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Judge Barbara Miller
Thanks!

GCH Dhowden American Dream
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Subscription Rates

SCWTCA members USA $25/year, Canada and overseas $35/year
Non-SCWTCA members USA $35/year
US funds only

The link to Benchmarks online is sent to all AKC approved and provisional SCWT judges
Benchmarks is also sent to all judges requesting a subscription, free of charge

Articles and letters for March issue are due February 1

Advertising Rates
Full page only $50
Back Cover advertising in color $100
Inside Covers advertising in color $75

Page size 8.5 x 11 inches

Ads may be sent as e-mail attachments, photo 300dpi .jpeg format
Original photos will be returned

Only photos with un-retouched dogs will be accepted. Limit health references to hip and
eyes and/or “health testing current and shared upon request.” Ads accepted from club
members only and limited to two pages per issue. ONLY CLUB MEMBERS’ CHECKS
WILL BE ACCEPTED for ads of co-owned and/or bred dogs.

Ad closing date for March issue: February 1

Send advertising to Molly O’Connell. (If sent by overnight service, sign “signature
waiver” so driver will leave package.) If you have copy submitted by February 1, a draft
layout will be sent to you for edits. Include e-mail address for quick turnaround. Payment
should be sent to the editor, payable to SCWTCA.

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HEALTH ISSUES             Cecily Skinner (health@scwtca.org)
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Make checks payable to: SCWTCA Endowment, Inc.
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Make all checks payable to SCWTCA, Inc.
ONLY U.S. FUNDS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
All others will be returned

Celebrating Long Life submit to:
Molly O’Connell by closing date
February 1, 2013

Benchmarks Editor
Molly O’Connell
mocnn1030@comcast.net

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BOW Montgomery
New Am CH

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GCH Greentree Keepsake Tobasco Cat
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SIRE: CH Candance Daze of Thunder “Cole”
DAM: CH Bradberry’s Alexandria Grace Kelly “Lexi”

Schnitzel is owned and loved by Sean, Hiliary, Maggie, Annie, Peter and Molly Mildrew.
Co-owned and bred by Deb Van De Ven

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