BENCHMARKS

Wheaten...in good company and deservedly so!

a publication of the SCWTCA, Inc
volume 42, number 3
september 2014

featuring:
great western weekend
st louis specialty
celebrating long life
twenty principles of good breeding
devil’s advocate
meeting a few new members
dedication in minnesota!
barn hunt

Artist Jeri E Fischer, whose work graces our cover, is inspired by literature, historical events and her constant companion, the handsome and affectionate Wheaten Terrier, Paris. For further information see page 4.

Benchmarks is available in color on our SCWTCA web site, http://www.scwtca.org. Click on Benchmarks and check it out!
"Al"
BRONZE GCH PitterPat Allons-Y!
***
Dance troupe:
Owners: Karen & George Davis,
and Sheryl Beitch
Synchronized efforts:
Bonita Snyder and Jon Caliri

All the right moves recognized by
renowned Breeder Judge: Gay Dunlap!

"Buster"
CH PitterPat's Buster Bluth
***
Veteran Dog and AOM
all weekend
Owned and handled by his
breeder Sheryl, aka "solo
dancer"

Sheryl Beitch
PitterPat Wheatens
Sheryl.beitch@me.com
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I remember my first Montgomery in 1978. Bill had a business trip so I cajoled my mother into coming with me for the weekend. Of course I had no idea that there was more than one show that weekend. My mother and I showed up at the Sheraton Valley Forge (that tall cylindrical hotel) with Brendan on the backseat and the grooming table in the trunk of the 2 door car I was driving at the time!

I connected with Brendan's breeder, Joy Laylon via the hotel phone (no cell phones then) and she met and gave me a quick intro to “potty” areas, hotel etiquette, and directions to the show the next day. In those years we had sweeps on the same day, in the same ring, prior to the regular classes. I was instructed to arrive early! My mother, never a morning person, was less than enthused about our before sunrise departure time. Oh well, that's dog shows!

Of course when I arrived I was overwhelmed with the predawn activities, x-pens, generators, stacks of heavy wooden crates forming mini areas under the tent, and so many Wheatens. I was on overload. My mother was cold! I connected with Brendan's breeder, Joy, again and she showed me where I could put my grooming table and crate. Crate? What crate? No one told me I needed a crate. I felt pretty savvy that I had a table and all of my grooming equipment in a men's Dopp Kit! I had only been to a couple local shows in Western PA prior to this and had pretty much shown up just early enough to do my brushing, get into the ring, then pack up and head home. I was clueless! My mother wasn't going to be happy when she found out that this was to be an all day affair. Did I mention it was cold? Well Brendan was nice and warm. Joy threw him into the crate with his litter sister for safekeeping. My mother was not so lucky. When informed of the dynamics of the day, she smiled and retreated to the car for the remainder of it, hunkered down under layers of sweaters and coats. She grew to be very proud of what I did with our Wheatens, but only attended an occasional show, close to home, and on warm days after that!

Oh but what a day! I showed my boy in sweeps to Dan Shoemaker (Waterford). Didn’t win. I think I got a ribbon, but all that I remember now is that I didn't win! Of course I thought I should have. How could he not realize that my first dog, my first Wheaten, was the best one in the ring? I will have to educate him. On to the regular classes under Annemarie Moore. I remember doing somewhat better under Mrs Moore, but still I didn’t win. More educating to do!

The real education was mine that day. My eyes were filled with images of Wheatens...all makes and shapes. Of course instinctively I was drawn to the differences in coat types and their trims. I watched intently under the tent as exhibitors readied their dogs for the ring. I remember meeting so many breeders that day. Jackie & Cindy Gottlieb, Gay Sherman, Penney Belviso, Marjorie Shoemaker, Lynne Penniman, to name but a few. I was given a chance to go over some of their dogs all the while being told what I was touching, how I should go about it, and what I should be looking for. One of my closest memories of that day was standing under the tent right before Best of Breed and seeing Ch Raclee Express West O'Andover and Ch Briarlyn Dandellion standing beside each other waiting to enter the ring. You could see the quality, you could feel their “specialness!”

A charming work by the very talented Jeri Fischer graces our cover for this issue. Following a very busy Great Western Terrier Association weekend and just before heading home, I thankfully took a quick stroll through SCWTSC's boutique and stumbled upon Jeri's charming and very cleverly designed cards. I was smitten! This particular card held immediate appeal, not only because it pictures our beloved Wheaten Terrier dressed as Thomas Cromwell but also a Bully, dressed as Cardinal Wolsey, and an Airedale, the King of terriers, portraying Henry VIII. Those of us who have championed Wheaten Terriers for so these many years, even prior to breed recognition in 1973, are well aware that our breed has always been relegated to “low man on the totem pole,” as heartbreaking as this insight may be. The failure to successfully climb the ladder of success as a breed can be traced back to one highly regarded handler with a lot of clout who proceeded to convince anyone who would listen that the breed was a sad excuse for a terrier and really belonged in the Non-Sporting Group. We deserve better than that. So, our hat's off to Jeri Fischer for placing a Wheaten along side the finest of our terrier breeds!

Jeri began her artistic career in the early 1970's. Her signature can be found on pen & ink drawings, mezzotints, & paintings. For further information about the availability of her whimsical cards, or to receive her brochure picturing all of them, you may reach her at 303 763-0188 or by emailing her at barkingzoe@yahoo.com. Jeri lives in Tucson, AZ.

On another subject, I am struck by the lovely little ears on many of this issue's Wheatens...those for whom we are “Celebrating Long Life” (see pages 39-43). They range in age from thirteen to fifteen years. Take a look and weep! And at the same time, consider, through our various breeding programs, how we might recreate them along, with some other traits dictated by our standard that we seem to have lost over the last few years.
I left that day wanting more. I was bitten by the bug. I couldn’t wait to get home and share my experience with Bill. My mother couldn’t wait to get home and get warm!

Bill and I were blessed to have Brendan as our first Wheaten. His quality exceeded our experience, but it set a bar for us to achieve. It was a small group Bill and I were welcomed into back then. The breed still had a long way to go to earn their place in the terrier group. While we may have had some individual differences in those days, we were united in making the breed better. There was no better place to do this than at our national specialty at Montgomery County K.C. This gathering was the crucible for our breed and it’s development. Nowhere did we have the breeders from all across the nation come together with their breeding stock for all to see and compare. Look at a stud, compare his get. Check out a top producing dam and her get, possibly even when bred to different dogs. And there was the “talk”…talking to fellow breeders. What are we seeing when breeding into certain lines? Colors, bites, short backs, high or low tail sets, we considered it all.

The most important factor of Montgomery back then, is that we did it in real time. There is no substitution for the here and now. No show photo, or video clip can be a substitute for seeing a dog with your own eyes and feeling it with your own hands. These factors hold true for Montgomery today! It’s more hectic now than before. We have four shows instead of three. Our sweeps is yet another event squeezed in between Devon and our dinner. But you don’t have to do it all.

This weekend is so much more than the breed competition. Come a day early and go to the rally event. Check out the obedience that runs prior to Sweeps judging. Our members who participate in performance will be happy to open your eyes to their wonderful world of Wheatens! Pace yourself so you have enough energy to attend the educational program, boutique, and annual dinner. These are valuable opportunities where you can sit with your fellow breeders away from the pressures of the competition and really “talk dogs!” Take time to enjoy your wins, and the wins of others. These are truly moments for us to come together. Agree to disagree when a situation presents itself. Put out the flames of mean spiritedness with a smile. Remember, in the end it’s really not about us, it’s about the dogs!

My mother is no longer with us to share those memories of my first Montgomery. Hopefully she’s warm in heaven! I do know if she were still with us, we would sit and laugh about that day over a cup of coffee. Here’s to memories! Join me at Montgomery this year and we’ll make some more.

Gary Vlachos
Are the Wheatens you like typey? That seems like a silly question but sometimes when I hear people discuss dogs, I’m not so sure we understand where that line should be drawn.

Beauchamp’s distinction between “styles” and “type” is a useful construct and one that many likely agree with. What they may not be able to do is decide where the dog they love fits.

I had a conversation with someone about a dog’s particular trait. They described it as “fancy” and liked it. I “agreed” it was flashy but that is not correct by the Standard. “Well,” they said, “That’s your opinion.”

Now, this was a straightforward trait. We weren’t discussing whether or not an eye was a wee bit too light or the tailset high or the head too short. We described the trait the same way...and any knowledgeable dog person should be able to say yes or no as to whether or not the Standard. But because the other person liked it, it automatically became an acceptable “style.”

I’m ok with thinking something is pretty, as long as one knows if it’s incorrect. I’m ok with going to the extreme of the definition of correct to encompass that. I’m ok with their preferring a “style” that I don’t like. But the Standards are there to define the difference between a style and a dog without type.

So why do we encounter such situations? The person I had the conversation wasn’t a newbie but a bright, experienced person who should know better.

A friend, in a similar situation, referred to a different old song “If loving you is wrong, I don’t want to be right.” I’d hope we’re better dog people than that. I prefer to think the problem arises from a lack of knowledge rather than a willful disregard of the Standard in favor of what’s in our houses.

I’ve said before, I’m ok with putting the best of a litter in the ring and breeding from it...as long as we understand it’s not *The Best*. Everyone starts with a particular dog or bitch and it’s rare we’re lucky enough to start with a really great one. I truly understand that first dog has our hearts in a firm grasp. But at the same time, he or she should be our starting point, not the epitome of all that is right and good in a Wheaten.

We had a litter out of one of my favorite bitches and some of the pups that we thought showed promise eventually fell aside. When I talked to the stud dog owner I told them I was satisfied; the bitch we kept retained her dam’s good qualities and showed some needed improvement. It was a step forward. I think that’s better than multiple champions no closer to the Standard than when we started.

Breeding is really about the evaluation and selection of the next generation. Look at Wheaten pedigrees and you predominantly see outcrosses; the same kennel name doesn’t make a line. This results in litters that can be all over the place...big and little, silky coats and fuzzballs, rich and pale color and so on...most definitely testing our selection skills.

Part of a project decades ago at AKC was to be certain terminology was correctly used in Standards...not to change the meaning but to try to get clubs to use common dog terminology. “Coupled” and “sprung” and “hocks...let down” and “reach” and “drive” and so on, all have a specific meaning no matter the breed. These aren’t hard to learn; many are defined on AKC’s website and there are lots of good references and diagrams.

That’s the start of knowing the Standard; you have to know what the breed requires...that a Wheaten should be “relatively short” coupled, have “well” sprung ribs and show “good” reach and “strong” drive. It’s knowing what makes our dogs Wheatens and not Airedales or Bulldogs. It means you must have the ideal pictured in your mind.

It also means you need help from knowledgeable Wheaten people. Mentors. Breed seminars. Breed education. Going to specialties. There are lots of opportunities to learn.

SCWTCA’s education materials and programs are more limited than I would prefer. I’m not here to point fingers...it’s not an easy task and everyone has other lives. But there is too much talk about people in the breed not knowing what they’re doing and too few people willing to get involved in the task of breeder education. I’m pleased we’ll have a good seminar at MCKC on Stud Dog Management...I encourage attendance...but remember, it’s about getting them bred, not deciding who to breed.

Here’s one thing breeder education *isn’t*: ring success. Remember, the judge’s job is a relative one, to pick the dog in the ring closest to the Standard. At MCKC, odds are it’ll be a pretty good Wheaten...maybe not your choice but, given the competition, a likely respectable dog and within the Standard. But at a small show, the winner may only be a 4 on a scale of 1 – 10...because the rest of the competition are 2s and 3s. Look at your competition with a cold eye before you decide your dog is the best.
next great one based on his wins. And remember: the judge is going by the dog on the day. It’s appropriate to ignore a level bite or a puppy beard that looks like it was dipped in black paint… but breeders take such traits lightly at their peril.

As my friend said, we need to “…study the Standard and learn to like what it calls for, not necessarily the things that catch your eye because they’re flashy, but learn to like what is right.”

Better still, remember another song title when assessing your dogs: “what’s love got to do with it?”

Introducing A Few New Members!

Cheryl Kemper

Occupation: Digital Learning Specialist (what I really do… integrate technology into high school classrooms coach teachers, and oversee the Media Center staff).

Husband: George Kemper - Occupation: Architect - Senior Lab Planner

Children/Grandchildren: Two college age sons Clay & Austin

Name and Ages of Dogs:  Lily, age 4, Ch Lil Town Winter’s Solstice of Ardnacassa (co-own with Carol Shaltz) Neil, age 9, Lil Town Braveheart of Ireland

When did you get your first Wheaten? Our first Wheaten came into our home in 1999 from Briarlyn Kennel. Louie was the heart and soul of our family making each and everyone of us feel as if they were his favorite person. Of course looking back (typical herding behavior and doing his job to keep us all together) he didn’t go to bed until the last person was up the steps for the night, sleeping in a different bed each night. He would circle our house to visit each of us throughout the day, looking back now it was his way of trying to herd us into one room so he could finally get some rest! When it came time to register him with AKC Austin (our youngest 7 years old at the time) insisted the two of them had the same hair color and most family resemblance that he be named after him - hence his registered name, “Louie J. Kemper.” He took Austin's middle name, Joseph!

How did you become interested in Wheatens? Our children were young and at their first track meet when a schoolmate came with his family and sat in the stands with their Wheaten Murphy who had just joined their family that day!!! He was a couple of years old, the best temperament and so well behaved for being with them literally hours. I knew then that when I was in the market for a dog that a Wheaten would be at the top of my list.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? My first childhood dogs were Fox Terriers. The rest of our dogs in between were all mixed breeds and rescue pups.

What activities do you participate in with your Wheatens? Lily has participated in Conformation and Obedience classes while Neil has enjoyed Rally and Obedience. Our new adventure is to try out a local Barn Hunt this summer. I’ve got a feeling it will be like taking kids to an amusement park!!! Our two have such a high prey drive that they will have a ball.

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? Lily’s first litter was probably the most memorable experience for me and my family. Not only watching them grow but, watching Lily’s and the puppies natural instincts and just how sweet and loveable they all were and the joy of seeing them as beautiful Wheatens today is quite an awesome experience.

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her? When we think of our first Wheaten, Louie, it is with such fondness and fun. A daily ritual in our house was for my son’s albino Cockatiel, Angel, to preen Louie’s forelock, sitting atop of his head. All the critters would co-exist and the countless pictures of Louie the dog playing with his boys and their rabbit, Cutie bird, Angel cat, Mercedes are treasured memories.

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? In 2003 we were informed that our beloved Louie’s litter was chosen as one of the Informative Test Families for national research with Dr. Littman. We of course jumped on board and provided information and participated in the study…happy that our dog was healthy and doing so well, until that doomed day that at age 9 those awful words you hate to hear PLN appear. We of course were heartbroken but the support we received from the SCWTCA was...
Occupation: Michelle is an Accounting Manager for ME Global. Bill is an attorney in private practice.

Children/Grandchildren: We have two children. Nick is 24 years old and a graduate of the University of St. Thomas. Janelle is 22 years old and a graduate of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Both are single.

Name and Ages of Dogs: Doogan (MACH4 Vermilion Doogan's Irish Cream MG2 MJC2 T2B) is nine years old. Riley (Gradaigh O'Riley of Vermilion AX AXJ) is nearly three years old. Riley is a nephew of Doogan.

When did you get your first Wheaten? Doogan was our first Wheaten and we got him in mid-2005 from Barb Peterson in Saginaw, MN, near Duluth.

How did you become interested in Wheatens? Long story short is that Bill brought a Brittany, Tex, into our marriage in 1988. Tex passed at age 13 in 1993, when the kids were toddlers. It was a very difficult loss for us. Bill decided that he didn't want to go through the loss process again, so no more dogs. Starting around 2003 the kids and Michelle wanted a dog; Bill was wary. He put the kids through their paces about dog ownership. He put the burden on the kids to identify the different breeds that we may consider and which meet certain criteria including medium size, good temperament, non-shedding, etc. The choices narrowed. Then he made them identify responsible breeders. Then we all went out to look at the various breeds and kennels. For the SCWT breeder, the kids identified Barb Peterson at Vermilion Kennels and we took the drive and visited. It was one of those "you know it when you see it" moments. Barb later gave us several pet choices from Doogan's litter and Janelle insisted on Doogan. More accurately, Doogan insisted on her!

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? A Brittany named Tex. Great dog! Still miss him.

What activities do you participate in with your Wheatens? We are both very active in AKC Agility. Doogan is a MACH4, two-time AKC Agility Top Dog in Breed, and has competed multiple times at the AKC Agility Invitational and the AKC National Agility Championships. Bill is Doogan's agility handler. Riley just started competing in AKC Agility this year, having earned his Novice, Open, and Excellent titles to-date. Michelle is Riley's agility handler.

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? There are so many memories. Doogan winning the SCWTCA-sponsored Medallion as the top agility Wheaten at the 2013 AKC Agility Invitational was special. Riley and Shelly earning their first QQ in the Masters agility class was special. Traveling the upper Midwest to agility trials in the motorhome with our Wheatens is always memorable and rewarding.

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her? With Doogan, you can always read his eyes. He has such a wonderful personality and truly is a "people" dog.

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? To join the SCWTCA is to become involved with the very people who care most about the Wheaten breed. Wheaten owners’ love of all things Wheaten has encouraged us to give back to the breed and to do our part to promote Wheatens, particularly in the performance event of agility. We are always engaged with others at agility trials who ask us about Wheatens. Our boys are the ambassadors…we are their PR department!

Michelle and Bill Space were sponsored by Barb Peterson and Susie Blackledge. Bill has substantial experience in the operation and running of agility trials. Bill brings the following skills to SCWTCA: event management, project management, speaking, statistics, training and writing. Michelle has experience organizing group events as well as hospitality for groups. She brings marketing and craft skills to SCWTCA.
friendships, too. I think the main reason my daughter and I are so generous to share with us. We really enjoy these new We have met wonderful people that have a wealth of knowledge continue our education on the care and health of our Wheaten. Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? Of course, we want to With our Wheaten, we wanted to be sure the breed was a match for us. We had the best memories for me were the days I first took both of my Wheaten home. I can never forget how happy those days were!

When did you get your first Wheaten? We got our first Wheaten after our Miniature Schnauzer, Remy, passed away at 12 yrs old. Our daughter took the loss very hard. We decided to get a Wheaten after falling in love with one we had met. We also did some research to be sure the breed was a match for us.

How did you become interested in Wheatens? Over the years, a Wheaten would always seem to be scheduled at the same time as our Schnauzers for grooming. I had admired her for so many years.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? My first dog as a child was a Dachshund. We also rescued an Irish Setter/Golden Retriever mixed breed and then got an Afghan Hound. As an adult, I have had Miniature Schnauzers and now Wheatens.

What activities do you participate in with your Wheatens? My husband, Michael, and I are the support staff and drivers for Riley & Griffin. They participate in Junior Showmanship and the breed ring at dog shows. They take handling classes and agility outside of the ring. We just try to keep up with them!

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? The most memorable moment would have to be watching Riley & Griffin get their first group placement. My husband and I nearly fainted! We were standing with Riley's mentor and Griffin's breeder, Jeanine Flavell, as well as some other supportive members from our local club. It was such an incredible moment for us all to share. Riley skipped back to our car with her ribbons flying behind her! We all just smiled as we watched as her and Griffin seemed to dance on air.

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her? My first Wheaten, Ari, would jump up on me every morning as I would wake. He’d smother me with kisses until I couldn’t breathe! Also, he had a special “woo woo” sound to his bark that makes me giggle just thinking of it.

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? Of course, we want to continue our education on the care and health of our Wheaten. We have met wonderful people that have a wealth of knowledge and are so generous to share with us. We really enjoy these new friendships, too. I think the main reason my daughter and I continued from page 8
joined was a sense of responsibility to the future of the breed. My daughter wishes to be a veterinarian and hopes to focus on dogs, cats and exotics... with a particular love for terriers. As a family, we wish to share with other families the joy of welcoming a Wheaten into their lives.

Michelle was sponsored by Bonney Snyder and Jeanine Flavell. She offers skills in artwork and crafts to SCWTC.

Riley was sponsored by Jeanine Flavell and Bonney Snyder. She is the first Junior to join SCWTC and offers artwork and craft skills to SCWTC.

Riley Frerking aka Miles ;)

Occupation: I am a Blood Bank Technologist. I determine patient’s blood types, check for antibodies, and set up blood products for transfusions, surgeries, and emergencies. I work at a 668 bed level I trauma center.

Children/Grandchildren: None

Name and Ages of Dogs: Miles (aka Riley ;) - GCH Gleanngay Runaway CGC) – 4 years old

When did you get your first Wheaten? I got my first Wheaten, Miles, when I graduated from college 3 years ago. He was my graduation present to myself.

How did you become interested in Wheatens? During my last year of college I interned at a hospital and while interning a coworker asked if I would dog sit for her. The dog turned out to be a 2 year-old Wheaten Terrier. I had never heard of the breed before but immediately fell in love. I knew that was the type of dog I wanted.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? Pug & Shih-Tzu

What activities do you participate in with your Wheaten? I show my dog in conformation. We have taken an obedience and advance obedience class, which has led him to receive his Canine Good Citizen title.

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? Showing Miles, who is my first conformation dog, at our second dog show and going Best of Breed from the classes and receiving our first major.

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her? Miles is my first Wheaten, but I will always remember how sweet and loyal he is. I refer to him as my kid.

Why did you decide to join SCWTC? Over the past 3 years of showing there have been so many wonderful members who have helped me out and been an inspiration to me. I love this breed and feel it was the right time to become a member and contribute in any way I can.

Riley was sponsored by Gay Dunlap and Jackie Gottlieb. Riley brings interests and skills in computer, fundraising, health, photography, speaking and writing for SCWTC.

A hearty shout out and thanks to our Membership Chairperson, Susan McGee, for gathering these charming profiles and photos of our newest SCWTC members!
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NEW OPEN REGISTRY MEMBERS
July 15, 2014

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. Meryll 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.
For a complete list of Open Registry members, email kccarlson@comcast.net.

John Eric Duncan
Marla Braun

Leslie & BriDeMattia
Charles Rodamer

Michael Rumpeltin
Shannon Taylor
Charwil Wheatens

Finn Wins Award of Merit at Great Western Under Respected Breeder Judge Gay Dunlap

CH Trigo Let Freedom Ring Gabby “FINN”
Ch Starlight Treasure Chest x Ch Trigos Relantago

Finn’s Consortium

Norma Wilson
Charwil Wheatens
wabnormal@yahoo.com
520.624.3827

Ron Shumate/DonCooksey
Fancy Free Wheatens
rshumate1101@gmail.com
505.983.4275

Nancy Butler
Trigo Wheatens
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505.433.5009
Let’s Dance

SCWTSC and SCWTCA Roving Specialties – GWTA – June 20 to 22, 2014

QUEEN MARY EVENTS PARK, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Ann Leigh, Chairperson, SCWTC Southern California

Oh what a party we had! Three beautiful days of dog shows down by the ocean waters in gorgeous June weather. The show was in the making for many months, since the idea for “Let’s Dance” was conceived. Bonney Snyder, Kay Baird and I selected merchandise, Laura Virant designed the ring decorations, and Connie Koehler put all the information on our website, keeping records straight and up-to-date with Pay Pal. Advertising was handled by Anna Marzolino, aided by Helen Fraguela.

Our ring was spectacular, decorated with dancing woodcut Wheatens, dressed in tango clothes, following the theme of “Let’s Dance” artwork designed by Helen Moreland and Fred Dingler. The decorations were made and arranged by Laura and Conrad Virant, Steve Steging, Erin Fawley, and Debbie Bowen assisted with ring assembly. Mike Smith assisted our signature archway, which was the entry into the ring and decorated with red roses.

Beautiful theme trophies were presented on Friday, made by our own Merrillee Ford. Sparkling crystal trophies were presented on Sunday, tastefully put together by our trophy chairperson Karla Cohen. Saturday’s Roving trophies presented by SCWTCA were the elegant Wendell August trophies, artistically displayed by President Gary Vlachos.

We offered an array of club merchandise handsomely embroidered by The Desert Arc, a local organization that provides employment for people with developmental disabilities.

Morning hospitality all three days was provided through the generosity of club members and set up by Leslie De Mattia, Diane Coffin, Bonney Snyder, Pat Nelson, Debbie Bowen, Mary Peltier and Trudy Rothrock. The raffle was splendid with exceptional items donated and available for bidding. Beverly Streicher and Jeannine Flavell did a marathon job. Our hard working treasurer, Jackie Whitham, was always at the ready to offer assistance. The boutique was a great success, co-ordinated by Miriam Kahan. The vendors offered outstanding items for sale, including handmade objects and unique artwork.

Hosted by the stylish Kathy Apogee, we held a Mexican Fiesta on the green catered by Nana, who cooked and prepared fresh Mexican fare on site. Laura Virant made the charming table decorations. The party was enjoyed by 70 guests, many of whom had fun receiving their raffle prizes. The original watercolor artwork was won by yours truly! How lucky I was! Miriam Kahan organized picnic box lunches all three days from Panera Bread, and was assisted by Steve Steging and George O’Hagen.

The dogs, beautiful entries, strutted their stuff under the keen eyes of our esteemed judges, Virginia Latham-Smith on Friday, Genie Kline, sweeps, and Gay Dunlap for the Roving Specialty on Saturday and Ellen Voss, sweeps, and Anne Katona on Sunday. Congratulations to all the winners. As always, we are grateful for our superb ring stewards Wilma Johnson and Lynn Aquire. Appreciation to everyone who helped with clean up and packing for our storage unit…a big job. Special thanks to Gilberto Chicol.

Thank you to everyone, exhibitors, club members, judges, our lovely president Bonney Snyder, my dear friend, who was with us every step of the way. As chairperson, I cannot express my gratitude to everyone enough.

SCWTCA Roving Specialty Sweeps Critique
Saturday, June 21 – Judge Genie Kline

My first trip to the show at the Queen Mary Part was just a delight. I was ask to judge Sweepstakes and Veteran Sweepstakes on Saturday June 21 for our Roving and was much honored to do so. A big thank you to my hosts, the Soft Coated Wheaten Club of Southern California, for the super hospitality.

Puppy Sweepstakes

Gemstone Imaginary Marquee, Best in Sweeps
Saltnsea Suzi’s Sunmeadow, Best of Opposite in Sweeps

I had one entry in (9-12) puppy dogs, Gemstone Imaginary Marquee. This youngster became my Sweepstakes winner. We had a bit of a job getting him settled to judge but he showed me such great movement on the first go around that I knew there must be a good set of shoulders in that wiggly body. This boy is a good size now, and I know he will fill out, but I would hate to see him grow taller. I liked his head and neck set and he had good ratio of head, neck and back to tail. His head was well balanced. I would have liked to see a smaller ear, but they were well set. Over all he is a handsome boy with a lovely compact body and square outline.

continued on page 15
There were three entries in (9-12) bitches. My first place winner, Saltnsea Suzi’s Sunmeadow, and Best of Opposite in Sweeps was a very pretty girl and loved showing. Her body was a joy from well-proportioned neck, to top line and body. Her front was lovely and she stood high on her pasterns. She made a very pretty picture with her pretty coat and true Wheaten outline. This little girl has attitude. I will say that there was a fine line between my winner of sweeps and this little girl.

My second place, Saltnsea Magic Over Andover, was just as lovely as her sister that I gave first place to. She just did not show as well, but had all of the right stuff and did not move as well as her sister did on Saturday. What she lacked was attitude.

My third place, Marquee's Fortune in Gemsstones, is a very pretty girl. I would have liked to see her movement, but she was not a happy girl on Saturday and would not show for her handler.

There was one entry in (12-18) bitches, Reyem T&T's Hotcakes Junie B. This little girl has a very pretty head and ear set. I saw a nice rear and she was true coming and going. I was not as happy with her coat as I was with the other entrees.

**Veteran Sweepstakes**

My Veteran Sweeps entries were: Dogs (7-9 years) Ch Pitter-pat’s Buster Bluth and (11+years) Ch Orion’s Ya Talking To me. Bitches: (9 and under 11 years) Ch Doubloon’s Ultimate Player and (11+years) Ch Marquee’s Trick or Treat. I must say that all of these lovely Veterans moved with good reach and strong drive. It was a pleasure to watch them move around the ring. Judging this was hard, as all four were special and could have earned the Sweepsstakes ribbon. I had to make a choice, however, and my winner was Ch Doubloon’s Ultimate Player and Best of Opposite was Ch Orion’s Ya Talking To Me.

I wish to commend the owners of these four special Wheatens for the lovely care they have given and are continuing to give.

Ten years have passed since I last judged a national specialty. It was 2004 and the venue was Montgomery. I was as pleased then as I was today over the honor bestowed upon me…the opportunity to judge a breed I have loved for over 40 years. I chose as my Best of Breed that day a young dog from the classes, a decision not always easy to come by when faced with many quality specials. But I found him to be so outstanding that he brought a tear to my eye. He was shown as Winners Dog by a young girl and, truth to tell, I had no recollection of who had shown him in the classes since much time had lapsed in the interim. It also never occurred to me that he might end up as my choice for BOB. But there was literally nothing not to like…outstanding make and shape, long and clean rectangular head with correctly sized and perfectly placed ears, I found it hard to take my eyes off of him. And then he moved…there was nothing not to like here either; up, back, and from the side…faultless. This dog went on to win many Group and Bests in Show, even winning the Terrier Group at Crufts. Some felt that his size disqualified him from being singled out as representing correct breed type. And it is true that, as he matured and filled out, some of what I loved in him was lost. However, I can only say, in retrospect, that I long to see more Wheatens with the remarkable style, balance, head proportions and soundness that I found in this dog back then.

Understanding that, since most of the dogs shown at Great Western were from west of the Mississippi, the entry did not represent...
a cross section of the breed such as we might see at Montgomery. Therefore, my comments must be taken in that context. Before I discuss the class placements and my reasoning behind them, I would like to make some general observations. I truly feel that our strides to improve the health of our breed have, unfortunately, had an adverse effect on breed type and quality. As a result, many breeders seem to have lost sight of what our standard actually calls for. With a few exceptions, heads are more blocky than rectangular with back skulls too wide for my hand to easily span. Where we call for skull and foreface to be equal in length, many muzzles are shorter from stop to nose. The correct head should resemble two bricks on the same plane, one slightly above the other.

I was disappointed to find that prominent lumbar vertebrae (rather unfortunately bearing the label “Sweeney Ridge”) are continuing to haunt us and when I found a dog with a truly level top line I sought to reward it. Other than the need to concentrate on producing longer, leaner and cleaner heads, I want to draw attention to many loosely constructed front assemblies, which I noted even on some of my winners. I wonder how many of you take the time to have someone move your dogs so that you can take note of it too. Conversely, I found many pleasing rears, at least on the go-away that had in the past, been disturbing, so we have made inroads there. Still, we do want to watch for a tendency toward straighter stifles, creating top-lines that appear higher in the rear than at the point of withers. Bites, in general, were good. At the same time there was only one mouth that I found deserving of a rave review...squared-off with all incisors perfectly lined up in a broad neat row, top and bottom. I want to compliment everyone on ear size, which, at least in this part of the Wheaten world, has vastly improved. I encountered very few oversized ears. I was also pleased with feet...small and compact, combined with straight pasterns. Overall, I was happy with coat texture. As for color, I would prefer that those with coats appearing “sooty” be kept at home until the sootiness clears. I very much favored those Wheatens that fell within the parameters of correct size.

Before I begin with my evaluation of individual placements, I want to remind all that, though we often seem to forget it, there are no perfect dogs. My critiques are meant as an aid to breeders who may need help in deciding what direction they might want to take their breeding programs or in what areas the dog(s) they are currently showing might be improved upon as dictated by our standard.

My placements were as follows:

BBE Dogs
1 – Atas Harbour Hill Take A Bao. Pleasing to see a mature dog competing in the classes. I was completely smitten with this dog’s head, rectangular and clean with no suggestion of coarseness or cheekiness. Beautiful tight feet and well up on nicely-arched toes. Skull easily spanned with foreface of equal length and on the same plane. Enviable top-line, compact and nicely balanced with a lot of daylight under him, he moved out smartly with perfect foot timing. Nice wavy jacket but could use clearer wheaten color.

2 – Reyem’s Hot Tin Woof. He is a young dog, beautifully presented but not displaying the same quality headpiece or top line as my class winner. An honest dog on the move but I would prefer to see a bit less of him, size-wise, especially considering his age.

3– Gemstone Imaginary Marquee. A longer cast youngster with beautiful coat texture and color, His ring presence bespoke his immaturity, which made it difficult to judge movement and gait. His tail was not held well, probably the result of his not understanding quite what was expected of him. He will hopefully pull it all together as he matures.

Open Dogs
1 – Bryr Rose Monmartre. A single entry in this class and also a youngster. 15 months old, his coat displayed pleasing color and texture. Nice angles front and rear. Would like more length of neck, a more refined headpiece and less size. Used his legs well.

Winners Dog– Atas Harbour Hill Take A Bao
Winners Bitch – Reyem’s Hot Tin Woof

9 to 12 Puppy Bitches
1 – Saltncsea Magic Over Andover. Littermates, both very pretty young ladies, these two will hopefully benefit from a bit of exercise and maturity when front assemblies tighten up. This pup
found to be slightly better coated with lovely wave and she has her sister beat with a cleaner, more rectangular skull and foreface, and is shorter in loin. Nice layback of shoulder.

2– Saltmead Suzi's Sunmeadow. Slightly larger and longer in back than her sister. Level toplines and lovely transition of neck into back on these two bitches. Both would benefit from larger headpieces.

12 to 18 Months Bitches


2– Asling Claddagh All Because Of U. Could do with longer neck to balance length of head and back. Sound on the up and back but her rear angles do not allow for sufficient driving action and this creates a tendency to stand under herself.

BBE Bitches

1– Stratford Charge It Please. My idea of the perfect size, she is nicely balanced with lots of daylight under her. Would benefit from a slightly longer headpiece. It was her mouth that I found to be so amazing...bluntly squared-off jaw with incisors all aligned in a perfectly even row, top and bottom. The bitches in this class all presented smooth, well laid back shoulders and lovely coats. It was my most competitive class…something all judges expect of their Bred-By classes but don't always find.

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Open Bitches

1– Kilonran Dreamweaver At Genesis. Nicely balanced, with excellent top line and perfect tail set with plenty of butt behind it. Liked her size but she could definitely lose a few pounds! Pleasing ear size and placement but could benefit from a bit more foreface. Moved with good reach and drive.

2– Brelan Time For A Holiday. Also displayed level top line but tail could be carried higher. Her ears, although nicely carried, are large. A longer cast bitch, she moved around with grace and ease and was clean on the down and back. Would prefer a little less size.

3– Reyem T & T's Hotcakes Junie B. May not yet have come into her adult coat. On the day it lacked color and seemed plushy. Head and neck do not balance with her length of back.

4– Asling Claddagh All Because Of U. Could do with longer neck to balance length of head and back. Sound on the up and back but her rear angles do not allow for sufficient driving action and this creates a tendency to stand under herself.

Winner’s Bitch – From the BBE class, Stratford Charge It Please. Reserve WB – Also from the BBE class. Asling Claddagh All Because Of U.

2– Atas Dim Sum Lights. Not quite the overall balance of my first place bitch. She is straighter in the stifle and this resulted in less rear driving action.

3– Gemstone Tale As Old As Time. Pleasing terrier make and shape but placed behind the other two bitches because of her larger size.

4– Marquee’s Fortune In Gemstones. Lovely coat color and texture. Head lacking sufficient length to be considered well balanced. Slightly longer cast and also a bit over-sized.

STRATFORD CHARGE IT PLEASE was WINNERS BITCH, BEST OF WINNERS & BEST BRED BY. She was bred by Molly O'Connell and Sandra Scott, shown by Molly, who is her owner along with Jan McFarland. Sire: GCh Andover Mayhem Magic. Dam is Stratford Plaza Suite.

RESERVE WINNERS BITCH, also from Bred-By, was ATAS DIM SUM LIGHTS, litter-mate to the Winners Dog and owned by Jeanine Flavell and Susan Sakauye. Shown by Jeanine.

VETERAN DOG also won an AOM. CH PITTERPAT’S BUSTER BLUTH, was shown by his breeder/owner, Sheryl Beitch. Sire: Ch Eureka Elevator Man; dam Ch Pitterpat’s Old Glory. He won the Veteran Dog class all three days, with an AOM on Sunday.
Veteran Dogs

1– Ch Pitterpat’s Buster Bluth. Beautiful long, lean and clean head planes...so rare these days. Perfect ear placement and carriage. Well presented with mature soft, silken, wavy coat. Al-}

though not terribly clean coming at me, he gaited around the ring with style, obviously proud of himself.

2– Ch Orion’s Ya Talkin To Me. A delight to see this 11-year-old dog in such fabulous condition. It made me proud to be a part of this breed. Moved cleanly. His proportions are slightly off, head and neck not in balance with his slightly longer length of back.

BISS– GCh Pitterpat Allons-Y! This was personally exciting for me, because I had no idea who this dog was. First of all, I had not seen him for almost a year. Secondly, he was not being shown by the person that usually handles him. All I knew was that I was liking him, almost immediately. I have admired him since the first time I laid eyes on him as a young pup. He exemplifies the type of headpiece we should be breeding for...long, lean and rectangular, with level planes and clean back skull. An upstanding dog with extremely well balanced proportions, well-placed ears and pleasing terrier expression. He is a dog that carries his tail straight up, at right angles to the back. If I had to fault him I would like cleaner action coming toward me but as I said earlier, this is a problem not unheard of in the breed and, as such, needs attention.

BOW – Winners Bitch, Stratford Charge It Please.

BOSS– GCh Doubloon’s Extreme Play. Always in the running and a pleasure to judge as she performs flawlessly without fail. In addition, she is always in peak condition and groomed to perfection by her breeder/owner/handler. Her side gait is quite reachy, fore and aft but, as with my BOB choice, she was not tidy coming at me.

SELECT Dog– Ch Bryr Rose Phoenix Rising. This dog presents himself well and was pleasant to watch on the move. Pretty coated, his outline would benefit from a tad more length of leg and I would prefer a leaner, longer head to balance his length of neck. Although well placed on the head, the ears could be smaller.
Dear members, exhibitors and Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier enthusiasts,

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to judge such a large and beautiful entry. Overall, I felt you had depth in the classes and good presentation. I was particularly happy to see the quality entry in the Bred By Exhibitor classes. Too often breeders feel they cannot win from the BBE class and so enter Open. As a breeder, I feel it is an important class to recognize. Again, I wish to commend you on the depth of quality in the Best of Breed class. There were several dogs and bitches that were very competitive. Congratulations to all of the winners and to the club members for a successful specialty.

I also want to thank the club for allowing me to attend the grooming seminar by Gary Vlachos. Since I have very little experience with scissors, it was truly a learning experience.

**SCWTSCS Friday Specialty Critique**

June 20 – Judge Virginia Latham Smith

Dear members, exhibitors and Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier enthusiasts,

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to judge such a large and beautiful entry. Overall, I felt you had depth in the classes and good presentation. I was particularly happy to see the quality entry in the Bred By Exhibitor classes. Too often breeders feel they cannot win from the BBE class and so enter Open. As a breeder, I feel it is an important class to recognize. Again, I wish to commend you on the depth of quality in the Best of Breed class. There were several dogs and bitches that were very competitive. Congratulations to all of the winners and to the club members for a successful specialty.

I also want to thank the club for allowing me to attend the grooming seminar by Gary Vlachos. Since I have very little experience with scissors, it was truly a learning experience.

SELECT Bitch—Ch Serendipity's Urban Legend. Typey bitch of correct size and proportions, level top line and a wonderful big black nose!

AOMs—Ch Pitterpat’s Buster Bluth, Veteran Dog. Ch Trigo Let Freedom Ring Gabby. Now here is a cobby dog, very compact with a wonderful stick straight tail, placed high on his back, he is very much of a piece, small but still a lot to him…perhaps even a bit too much weight for his size. GCh Reyem's Saddle Up N Ride. Presents a very pretty picture and is of a pleasing size but a little more leg under him would create better balance. Headpiece is more blocky than rectangular. Beautifully presented, moved around the ring soundly and with style. AOM's also were awarded to my Select dog and bitch.

I want to thank all of the exhibitors for their patience with me as I took pictures and recorded my thoughts for this critique. In many ways I feel it detracts from the smoothness of the event and sometimes disrupts the judge’s thought processes. At the same time, I feel it is vital that, as judges, we share these opinions so that the event can become a learning experience and not simply about the winning and the losing. Otherwise, what’s the point? And thank you, too, for the sportsmanship displayed on the day. I was proud to be a party to it. We also had to deal with a bit of wind that came up at picture taking time, requiring a reversal of posing and also resulting in photos of not quite the quality we might like!

Heartfelt gratitude to my fabulous ring stewards, Wilma Johnson and Lynne Aguirre, for their patience as I tried to find the “perfect” spot to place our ramp and to get my iPad working properly for pictures and recording! The ring configuration made things a bit more complicated than they might have been, but in the end, these two ladies kept things rolling and were totally awesome! And lastly, my beautiful personalized gift from SCWTCA...a handsome Wendell August platter, was such a surprise and will remain most treasured. Thank you so much.

Friday’s BEST IN SHOW SPECIALTY winner was GCH LOCH-LINEAR GLEANNGAY CHA CHING, bred by Pat Mullin & Gay Dunlap, owned by Pat and shown by Amy Rutherford. Sired by Ch Gleanngay Holliday; his dam is Ch Gleanngay Tilde Wink. Trophy presenter is SCWTSCS club president, Bonney Snyder.

WINNERS DOG & BEST OF WINNERS was REYEM’S HOT TIN WOOF; bred by Gwen Meyer and owned by Gwen and Cathy Roozen. Sire: GCh Heirloom Nobody Does it Better; dam is Reyem's Dressed For Dancing.
WINNERS BITCH at Friday’s SCWTCSC Specialty as well as at the Roving, was STRATFORD CHARGE IT PLEASE. Breeder Owner Handled by Molly O’Connell.

CH BRYR ROSE PHOENIX RISING was SELECT DOG at the Roving on Saturday as well. He is shown by Gwen Meyer for owners Carolyn Garrett and Jeanne Ferris.

AOM winner, GCH REYEM’S SADDLE UP AND RIDE, was Select Dog on Sunday and an AOM winner at the Roving. Bred by Gwen Meyer and Kay Baird, he is owned by Kay and Cathy Roozen. Sire: Ch Mil Mear Geragold Cowboy Up; dam: Ch Reyem’s Dressed For Dancing.

AOM to CH GEMSTONE’S AS YOUR FORTUNE COMES, breeder owned by Jim and Tami Herzog and shown by Jim. He is co-owned with Linda and Christine Lee. Sire: Ch Baroque Top Shelf Hurrikane; dam is Ch Gemstone Carolina Queen.

CH DOUBLOON’S ULTIMATE PLAYER, winner of the Veteran Bitch class was SELECT BITCH on Friday, in addition to winning Veteran Sweeps both days.

CH SALTNSEA RUNNIN’ DOWN A DREAM, was another AOM winner. He is bred and owned by Susan Jacobsen and Eric Taylor. By GCh Andover Mayhem Magic out of Ch Salttnea California Dreamin’.
SCWTCSC Sunday’s Sweepstakes Critique  
June 22, Judge Ellen Voss

First of all, I want to thank you for allowing me to do your sweepstakes.

The puppies were all lovely representatives of the breed and everyone should be quite proud of them.

Lovely heads and beautiful bites. All had dark eyes, well set, and the ears were at the proper angles. They had nice clean shoulders and for the most part lovely top lines. Nice straight legs with no pasterns turning in or out. Rears were well let down with no elongated hocks. Coats were a lovely texture and they were properly groomed (not over groomed).

Temperaments were wonderful. I had some hard decisions. I can honestly say that I think they could all finish their championships. Proper reach and drive. There were no glaring faults on any of them. This was a group of very promising puppies.

**BEST IN SWEEPS on Sunday was, once again, GEMSTONE IMAGINARY MARQUEE from the 9-12 Puppy Dog class. Bred by the Herzoga and Sonya Urquhart and owned by Tami Herzog who also showed him.**

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CH EMERALD ISLE was also awarded an AOM on Friday. Bred and owned by Greg and Sandy Reburn, she was shown by Greg. Sire is Ch Derryhuma Mr Mistoffleeve out of Ch Emerald Isles Double Your Money.

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SCWTCSC Sunday’s Specialty Critique  
June 22 – Judge Anne Katona

What a thrill walking into the Soft Coated Wheaten ring during The Great Western Terrier Association weekend! The weather was beautiful, a bit warm in the afternoon but not unbearable. The venue for photo opportunities was priceless! Who would not want a photo with the Queen Mary and the “Ocean” in the background?

The entry number was usual for any show at the present time. The economy has taken a toll on all shows and Great Western felt that this year. However, those that did attend where welcomed with appreciation.

The entry was strong, from the 6 to 9 months classes to Best of Breed. There were many exemplary dogs and bitches from which to choose. I hope it was obvious that I prefer exhibits that move as a complete package with good top lines, and with balanced reach and drive. Within those parameters I expect individual breed characteristics: the breed should have a soft flowing coat of wheaten color (with exception to age being extended consideration) – the coat should be flowing (not curled), and slightly waved. Both male and female should be moderate in size (height).

The Wheaten should have good neck set on into the shoulders, a compact well-knit body and a tail that is docked, well set and carried up. Its legs are soundly made and should carry the Wheaten in a happy and confident manner.

LEGACY GLEANNGAY CYD CHARISSE was BOS for Sunday’s show. Bred by Jon Caliri, Robert Green & Gay Dunlap, she is owned by Jon, Robert, and Brian & Leslie DeMattia and shown by Leslie. Sire: GCh Lochlinear Gleanngay ChaChing; dam: GCh Gleanngay Lady Of The Lake.
Keeping all of this in mind, my winners for the day were:

WINNERS DOG/BEST OF WINNERS: REYEM'S HOT TIN WOOF
Breeder: Gwen Meyer. GCH Heirloom Nobody Does It Better CA X CH Reyem's Dressed For Dancing. Owners: Cathy Roozen and Gwen Meyer

WINNERS BITCH: HARMONY FULL CIRCLE
Breeder: Lisa M Moore, James & Sue Little. CH Ceili's Time To Shine X CH Harmony Sweet Blessing. Owners: Linda & Doug McCallum and Sue & James Little

SELECT DOG: GCH REYEM'S SADDLE UP N RIDE
Breeder: Kay L Baird and Gwen Meyer. CH Mil Mear Geragold Cowboy Up X CH Reyem's Dressed For Dancing. Owners: Cathy Roozen and Kay L Baird

SELECT BITCH: CH SERENDIPITY'S URBAN LEGEND

Thank you for the wonderful stewards – Wilma Johnson and Lynne Aguirre. These two ladies did a tremendous job – gracious to the exhibitors with smiles for everyone! They knew exactly how to keep the ring moving with trophies ready. Speaking of trophies – they were awesome and everyone seemed to enjoy receiving them as much as I enjoyed handing them out.

I had such a wonderful time with all the great exhibitors as well as many of the spectators attending that day!! I even enjoyed giving a spectator a small piece of glass I spotted on the ground under the tent. And someone said I was blind!!! Thank you all for the many laughs, memories and beautiful Soft Coated Wheatens that attended on Sunday. 
What a pleasure to judge the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Southern California on June 22, 2014. I always consider an invitation to judge a breed specialty an honor – so thank you for inviting me! AK 🐕

A Dog’s Bill of Rights
By Emily Holden

1. I have the right to expect some time from you each day. By this I mean my own time, not interrupted by the phone or humans.
2. I live my whole life for you and I need some special time to know that you care about me. My whole day revolves around waiting for you to pay attention to me. Reading to me is good, scratching and petting is better, but I need to hear your voice.
3. I have the right to clean food bowls and water containers that are washed and filled at least twice a day. I need water at ALL times. Fuzzy water is not acceptable.
4. I need quality food and medical attention.
5. My bedding needs to be clean and changed often since my feet sweat and I do tend to walk in bad things. After all, I am a dog. I prefer cotton bedding because it doesn’t break or otherwise damage my coat.
6. I need training so that you don’t stick me into a box every time your friends come to visit. Don’t punish me by sticking me in a box. I need guidance and correction based on love, understanding and compassion, rather than abuse.
7. I need lots of exercise. I am an animal and need to be running and playing. I need to be silly and to do crazy things sometimes.
8. I need lots of fresh air, grass and play toys.
9. I have the right to be considered one of the family while remembering that I am a dog and not a child substitute.
10. I have the right to live and to die with dignity. I have the right to expect to die in your arms. Remember that I never once said “I can’t handle it” when you cried into my coat because you were unhappy. I can handle anything if you are there!
20 Basic Breeding Principles
by
Raymond Oppenheimer

Editors Note: Raymond Oppenheimer, was one of the most brilliant figures the dog world has produced. He devoted most of his considerable resources from the mid-1930s until his death in 1984 to Bull Terriers in England.

1. Don't make use of indiscriminate outcrosses. A judicious outcross can be of great value; an injudicious one can produce an aggregation of every imaginable fault of the breed.

2. Don't line breed just for the sake of line breeding. Line breeding with complimentary types can bring great rewards; with unsuitable ones, it will lead to immediate disaster.

3. Don't take advice from people who have always been unsuccessful breeders. If their opinions were worth having, they would have proved it by their successes.

4. Don't believe the popular cliché about the brother or sister of the great champion being just as good to breed from. For every one that is, hundreds are not. It all depends on the animal concerned.

5. Don't credit your dogs with virtues they don't possess. Self-deceit is a stepping-stone to failure.

6. Don't breed from mediocrities. The absence of a fault does not in any way signify the presence of its corresponding virtue.

7. Don't try to line breed to two dogs at the same time; you will end by line breeding to neither.

8. Don't assess the worth of a stud dog by his inferior progeny. All stud dogs sire rubbish at times. What matters is how good their best efforts are.

9. Don't allow personal feelings to influence your choice of a stud dog. The right dog for your bitch is the right dog, whoever owns it.

10. Don't allow admiration of a stud dog to blind you to his faults. If you do, you will soon be the victim of autointoxication.

11. Don't mate together animals, which share the same fault. You are asking for trouble if you do.

12. Don't forget that it is the whole dog that counts. If you forget one virtue while searching for another, you will pay for it.

13. Don't search for the perfect dog as a mate for your bitch. The perfect dog for every bitch does not exist...never has, never will.

14. Don't be frightened of breeding from animals that have obvious faults, so long as they have compensating virtues. A lack of virtues is by far the greatest fault of all.

15. Don't mate together non-complementary types. An ability to recognize type at a glance is a breeder's greatest gift. Ask the successful breeders to explain this subject...there is no other way of learning. (I'd define non-complimentary types as ones that have the same faults and lack the same virtues).

16. Don't forget the necessity to preserve head quality. It will vanish like a dream if you do.

17. Don't forget that substance plus quality should be one of your aims. A fool can breed one without the other.

18. Don't forget that a great head plus soundness should be one of your aims. Some people can never breed either.

19. Don't ever try to decry a great terrier. A thing of beauty is not only a joy forever, but a great terrier should be a source of aesthetic pride and pleasure to all true lovers of the breed.

20. Don't be satisfied with anything but the best. The second best is never good enough.

“He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion.”
With very limited showing, this handsome boy placed:

# 14 in 2012 Breed
#15 in 2013 Breed
#8 (YTD June) 2014 Breed

Watch for his kids MCKC weekend

Sage Wheatens
Now, exclusively Owner handled by Sandy Russo

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ASH

READY TO SOAR...

Ash is on the rise winning numerous group placements in 2014. Our sincere appreciation to all the judges.

GCH BRYR ROSE PHOENIX RISING

Judge Mr. Darryl Vice
Bred by Carolyn Garrett
Owned by Carolyn Garrett & Jeanne Ferris
Sire: CH Bryr Rose Nouvelle Vague Dam: CH Bryr Rose Flower Power

Judge Mr. Wood Wornall
Presented by Gwen & Kent Meyer
Luna completed her championship at the prestigious AKC/Eukanuba National Championship. Thank you to Judge Mr. Norman Patton for this honor.
Good bye My Friend,

Roni Andrews

Kathy Clarke
Pat Bajoras
Cyndi Stokvis
Why do some dogs have a long smooth stride, and others have a choppy gait, with little front reach?

If you examine the shoulder, you usually find the answer. The front assembly of the canine is not attached in the same way as the human. Humans have the collarbone or clavicle, which runs between the shoulder and the breastbone. The clavicle attaches to the shoulder at the acromio-clavicular joint, and attaches to the breastbone, or sternum, at the sterno-clavicular joint. This rather flimsy arrangement leaves the major part of the attachment of the upper extremity assembly to muscles, but does supply some mechanical (bony) rigidity to the apparatus.

In canines, there is no collarbone. The front assembly literally floats on its muscular and ligamentous attachments. This arrangement suits the need for maximum cushioning and flexibility of the front end of a predator, which must catch its fast moving prey. The human needs more stability because his main implement is his hand, and he does not need the impact cushioning because he does not run on all fours.

**The function of angulation** - the bones folded at angles to one another - is twofold. The most obvious function is that of enabling alteration of the position of the component bones so that the dog can move, and providing levers upon which the muscles can exert mechanical force.

**The second function is that of shock absorption.** The front end bears about 65-75% of the dog’s weight. The angles between the bones of the front limb and shoulder act as a series of leaf springs to absorb the shock of gaiting. Without these shock absorbers, the front would quickly break down. Thus the shoulder in the canine infant starts out rather short and upright, for maximum strength in weight bearing, and only later, as the animal uses its running gear for several months or even a year or more, do the muscles mature and define the adult shoulder placement. The shoulder muscles and the angles between the bones develop by responding to the need for shock absorption during the stresses of gait.

**The first diagram** shows the principal muscles, which move the front leg forward. There are many other muscles besides the ones shown, but together they all perform the major functions shown.

**is the sacpulo-humeral joint.** It controls the amount of extension of the shoulder by means of a notch on the top of the humerus. This joint can never open to 180 degrees as a result of this limiting notch, which stops it about 15 degrees short of 180. Thus the maximum angle of the upper arm very much depends on the angle at which the shoulder blade is set on the body.

**The shoulder blade can rotate** up to 15 degrees from the static position, which in the well-angulated shoulder is about 30 degrees (to the vertical). This angles the shoulder, when you add the 15 degrees of additional rotation at maximum extension, to 45 degrees - the angle of maximum stride length.

**Look at the lack of balance** in the musculature of the dog with an upright shoulder blade. The areas of attachment of the muscles are limited because the angles are too steep. The angles at which the muscles act limits their mechanical advantage as well.

**Dog A.** will be able to move easily on a loose lead with his head held at a 90-degree angle to the axis of the shoulder blade. He will have a long stride, and a fluid gait which appears effortless. He always looks good - on or off the leash.

**Dog B.** has trouble extending his front legs. Because of the steep shoulder, he needs to lower his head to gain effective use of the muscles, which move the leg forward. He will tend to “hang” on the leash to assist himself in getting the front end airborne. Left to his own devices, he will tend to move with considerable vertical bounce, and with a lower stationed head. Because of the shortened front stride, the rear will tend to kick up behind, rather than reach under the dog. This dog, if trained to tolerate being “strung up” on the leash, may look very flashy in the ring, as his handler helps him get his front off the ground, the rear is then free to propel him forward.
Our Specialty show this year was again indoors at the beautiful Purina Farms Events Center as part of a five show weekend with Gateway Terrier Club, Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club and Mississippi Valley Kennel Club.

After the positive response to our pottery trophies last year, we again offered hand-made local pottery with a Wheaten design and club logo as our trophies for regular classes. The top sweepstakes winners took home embroidered tote bags.

Cecily Skinner judged 10 in puppy sweepstakes and Cindy Vogels judged 28 in the regular classes.

Boutique sales, the raffle and silent auction were held during the specialty dinner at the Checkerboard Café in the Event Center on Friday evening. I am happy to report that this year the weather was uneventful so we did NOT have to seek shelter.

Our hospitality area was set up in the RV parking area where we had snacks and drinks all weekend. Club members hosted our casual BBQ on Saturday evening serving some of the best BBQ ribs around.

The weekend was full of fun, friends and competition with one of the highlights being Beth Verner’s return to the show ring for the first time after a lengthy illness.

Thanks to our judges, exhibitors and the wonderful club members and friends that contributed their time and talents to make the show weekend truly special.

We took in a little over $500 in Raffle ticket sales that will be donated to the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America Endowment Fund for Wheaten Health. We hope to see you next year!

Cindy Shea

**SCWTCGSL Sweeps Critique, Judge Cecily Skinner**

I was so excited when I was invited to judge Sweepstakes at the St. Louis Specialty as this was a Specialty I had never attended. Judging a Specialty Sweepstakes is always an honor especially in your own breed. The indoor venue is fantastic . . . the wonderful Purina Farms in the rolling hills outside of St. Louis.

I was very pleased with the quality of the entry and the happy “tails up” attitudes of the puppies! All were presented beautifully by their handlers. Overall, bites were very nice as were eye color, shape and placement. Rears have improved but shoulders and front assemblies still need improvement.

**6-9 Month Puppy Dog**
First – Haldane Return of the King. A happy boy who will benefit from maturing and more ring experience.

**9-12 Month Puppy Dog**
First - Burdigan’s Adventure of Mr. Bill. Proper size dog with good substance. Beautiful outline, lovely coat and head. A very confident, “tails up” boy.

**12-18 Month Dog**
First - Rosheen Ring of Fire. Beautiful coat, lovely head and good bite. Nice boy but not using himself well on the day.

**6-9 Month Puppy Bitch**
First - Marquees’s Collection of Gemstones. Square, correct sized, feminine girl. Gorgeous coat, lovely amount of neck and up on leg. Would like to see a bit more weight on her. Second – Caraway October in the Pines. Very pretty girl who moved well.

**9-12 Month Puppy Bitch**

**12-18 Month Bitch**
First – Sam Hill’s Super Soul Sunday. Pretty outline and coat,
correct size. Feminine girl who used herself well. Second – Stratford Bestseller. Beautiful head and bite. Lovely eye shape, placement and color. Nice topline and shoulders. A bit longer cast than I prefer. Third – Reyem’s Tat’s Hot Cakes Junie B – Beautiful side gait, very nice coming and going, good topline. A bigger girl than I prefer. Fourth – Burdigan’s Red Hot Chili Pepper - Lovely outline, very square. Smooth transition and nice topline with a good tail set. Very much the type of girl I like. Unfortunately, it was difficult to tell movement as she was as she was not cooperating with her handler on the day.

Best In Sweeps – Burdigan’s Adventure of Mr. Bill. A masculine, confident boy in excellent condition and beautifully presented. He did not put a foot wrong. I was very happy to award him Best in Sweeps.

Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Sweeps – Marquee’s Collection of Gemstones. A pretty girl who showed herself well. Loved her coat, size, outline and happy, carefree attitude.

My heartfelt thanks to the members of the St. Louis Club for their wonderful hospitality. I had a great time in the ring and at all the social events over the weekend!!! My gift is perfect and I will remember all the beautiful puppies and the fun times we had each time I look at it!

SCWTCGSL Specialty Critique, Judge Cindy Vogels

Many thanks to the members of the SCWTCGSL for inviting me to judge your specialty show. It’s always an honor to evaluate a specialty entry, but even more special when it’s my initial breed, the reason I got involved with dog shows, and the breed in which I have the most background and experience.

For those who have read my previous critiques, it may be old news, but I will re-state my priorities when assessing Soft Coated Wheaten. The following addresses the points which distinguish breed type. Common points of structure are essential, but not discussed here.

I can’t stress enough the importance of proper outline. It is the hallmark that differentiates breeds at a glance. First, the SCWT is a square, upstanding, sturdy, but moderately sized, long-legged terrier. Square is measured from the point of shoulder to point of rump which should equal the distance from the withers to the ground. In order to have the correct balance, the distance from the withers to the elbow must equal the distance between the elbow and ground. The head and neck must be of sufficient length to balance the length of leg. A square dog with ample and balanced front and rear angulation will always be shorter in top line than underline. A level top line and high-set tail with flat croup (contributing good “butt behind the tail”) completes the ideal outline.

The head is rectangular, with skull and muzzle length equal, divided by a moderate stop. The skull should be easily spanned by the thumb and middle finger of my hand, the muzzle should fill my hand, be strong through the jaw, and hold a full mouth of big teeth. While a level bite is acceptable, a scissors bite is preferred. The two planes created by the top lines of the skull and muzzle must be level. Eyes are small to medium in size, appear slightly almond shaped, and are set slightly obliquely in the skull. The proper expression (although eyes are nearly covered by the fall of hair) is created by the proper size, shape and set of the eyes, the large black nose, and most important, the small to medium sized ears which appear to set level with the skull. (They actually set above the skull, but the requisite length of coat on top of the head and ears give the appearance of a straight line across the skull and ears.) The inner edge of the ear should lie snugly to the skull and the tips, ideally, should not fall below the level of the eye.

The coat is a soft, silky, single, gently wavy jacket abundantly covering the dogs. There is a great diversity of acceptable coats, but a kinky, frizzy, cottony, or tightly curled coat is never correct. Most Wheatens’ coats go through a transition from puppy coat which is usually soft and often more abundant than ideal, to a middle period where some acquire guard hairs with more texture, to the mature coat which should be as described above. There are exceptional coats which don’t go through this transition, but many adolescent coats are less than ideal. Although there is a very wide range of acceptable color, proper texture dictates proper color. A silky coat is reflective, and a properly colored coat will have sheen. “Dead white” is just that, and equally incorrect is dull gray or brownish red.

The Soft Coated Wheaten is a happy, merry dog. I encourage

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sparring the males, which should come up on their tippy toes, but remain steady, and not easily provoked. The bitches will rarely spar, but should also be steady and happy.

Wheatens must be upstanding in motion, holding their frame on the go. Their reach and drive is moderate, in keeping with their structure. Overangulated dogs that lower themselves exhibiting “tremendous reach and drive” are incorrect, as are those with mincy, short-strided gaits.

12-18 Month Dogs
1. Lovesong's Racing the Dawn. A moderate-sized compact dog that uses himself well. Good topline and tailset. He could use more neck and a lack of angulation front and rear is reflected in his movement.
2. Rosheen Ring of Fire. A beautifully coated pup, but difficult to assess because of his reticence.

Bred-By-Exhibitor Dogs
1. Burdigan's Adventure of Mr. Bill. Moderate-sized dog with good topline and tailset. Nice spring of rib and depth of body. Pretty coat. Could use a bit more angulation and more neck to balance his length of back.
2. Haldane Return of the King. Very skinny and immature 6 month-old puppy.

Open Dogs
1. Duidream Rogue Runner's Escapades. Lovely length of leg and balanced outline in a moderate package. Never gave me ears. Straighter behind than in front which throws off his foot timing.
4. Kevana Master Blaster. Faulty construction and coat placed him fourth in this class.

Winners Dog was Burdigan’s Adventure Of Mr. Bill, breeder owned by Julie & Josh Burdick. Sire: GCh Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man Dam: Ch Adventurer Duet With Burdigan. Shown by Julie.

Puppy (6-9) Bitches
1. Caraway October in the Pines. Very sound, balanced pup. Uses herself well. Right up there for size already, hopefully she’s finished growing and will mature into a lovely bitch.

Puppy (9-12) Bitches
1. Saddlebrook's It All Started With A Big Bang, was bred and is owned by Stan & Jinx Moore. Shown by Jinx his sire is Ch Kincora Tara Life In The Fastlane and his dam is Ch Saddlebrook's Pickapocket.


Bred-By-Exhibitor Bitches
4. Mirikal Playing Footsie. A bit more than I prefer. Didn't use herself well on the day.

Open Bitches
1. Stratford Charge It Please. Moderate-sized, nicely balanced bitch. Could use a little more head Uses her ears well, but they could be higher set.

Winners Dog was Burdigan’s Adventure Of Mr. Bill, breeder owned by Julie & Josh Burdick. Sire: GCh Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man Dam: Ch Adventurer Duet With Burdigan. Shown by Julie.

Select Dog, Saddlebrook's It All Started With A Big Bang, was bred and is owned by Stan & Jinx Moore. Shown by Jinx his sire is Ch Kincora Tara Life In The Fastlane and his dam is Ch Saddlebrook's Pickapocket.

Best of Breed, GCh Mirikal Double Top Breakout NA NAJ. He was bred by Susan McGee and Elena Landa, owner handled by Susan. Sired by Ch Melandee's High Wire Act out of Ch Doubloon's Playing for Keeps, he is pictured with the judge and trophy presenter, club president Cindy Jansen.

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2. Reyem Tat’s Hot Cakes Junie B. Very pretty coated, but a bit more than I prefer.

**Winners Bitch** Burdigan’s Red Hot Chili Pepper
Reserve Winners Bitch. Caraway October in the Pines

**Best of Breed** GCh Mirikal Double Top Breakout NA NAJ. Nice shape and make. Uses himself well. Could use more refinement in head.

**Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed** Burdigan’s Red Hot Chili Pepper.

**Select Dog** Ch Saddlebrook’s It All Started With a Big Bang. Obviously a young dog, beautifully coated. A bit longer than the winner, and not as good on his legs.

**Select Bitch** Escapade Just a Minute. A lovely little bitch. Could use a little more leg under her and didn’t use her legs as well as well as the Winner’s Bitch.

I’d like to thank you all for the wonderful hospitality and gift. I really enjoyed the post show dinner and discussion. Most of all, thanks to all of you for your dedication to Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers.

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**The Ubiquitous “Annie”**

by Betsy Geertson

Early last November our dog school received an email from the director of the upcoming stage production of “Annie.” The director was looking for a dog that might have the look and some training for the role of the dog, Sandy. Over the years, I have been asked to do the role with one of my dogs since they definitely have “the look.” Previous commitments always prevented me from doing it. I was so happy that the timing worked out this year.

Before Dylan actually got the part, he and I had to go to the theatre for an audition with the director and the young actress who was to play Annie. I was a little concerned that Dylan might be outside his comfort zone since dog shows were pretty much the only thing that we have done with the public. However, he went out on the stage as if he owned it and immediately jumped on Annie since she gave him the universal dog signal to jump and kiss, by kneeling down on the floor. Needless to say, he got the part.

I had two months before rehearsals started to begin training some of the things he would need to do. At home I trained him to go to a black bath mat and lie down. I would then be able to have that mat on the stage for him to be able to go to «a spot». Lots of treats on the mat made it a very special place for my food motivated dog.

Rehearsals began in January. For the first few weeks, we just rehearsed the scenes that Dylan was in and we never rehearsed at the theater. Closer to opening night, rehearsals moved to the theater. His mat training transferred to each new place that we practiced. By the time we had full rehearsals, with an orchestra, he was a pro. He loved the part where Annie calls him and he runs out onto the stage. I’m sure it helped that I armed Annie with a big hunk of cheese before she went out on the stage. He happily ran onto the stage whenever she called him, lined up on his mat and got his piece of cheese. This part of his role called for him to sit or down beside Annie whenever she sang «Tomorrow». For some unknown reason, at the same part of the song, he would reach up and kiss Annie, usually more than once. He never did this in practice, so I can only think that he liked the orchestra and audience.

We did five shows over four days and Dylan did great every show. He was in four different scenes. His big finish was coming out on stage at the very end as Annie’s Christmas gift, with a big red bow on his neck.

Peyton had a small cameo role. She was a «stray dog» that the dogcatcher carries across the stage near the beginning of the show. She was happy to comply.

I had no experience with Community Theater and was so impressed with both the talent and dedication that everyone, adults and kids, exhibited. All in all this was one of the best experiences I have ever had with any of my dogs and I would happily do it again!
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Meet the New SCWTCA Board Member
(Thanks to Carol Carlson)

Lee Martin

I live in Austin Texas with 4 Wheats ranging in age from 5 to 14. I spent my nearly 30 year career working for Southwestern Bell (now AT&T) in many management jobs and cities, starting in engineering, then moving to HR, then finance, then R&D and finally government relations. After 10 years lobbying the Texas Legislature I was more than ready for early retirement. I was fortunate during my career to twice be a member of a team creating a new strategic business unit for the company. I determined the practices and procedures for the daily operations of a new R&D entity including hiring, accounting, budgeting, IT, and intellectual property. That job helped me to develop skills in evaluating and resolving a variety of complex issues.

How and when did you first become interested in Wheats? When did you get your first Wheaten? When did you join SCWTCA? I got my first Wheaten in 1983 from a breeder in Fort Worth. A friend who showed Irish Setters arranged for me to meet a breeder of Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, a breed with which I was unfamiliar. I spent the day with the breeder answering what I thought then were the most amazingly personal questions, but at the end of that Sunday Dancer and I went home together. He was my beloved companion until he died at 17 1/2 and my kennel name of Katdancer honors him.

What SCWTCA offices and committees have you worked on and how long have you been an active member? I have worked behind the scenes on a variety of SCWTCA committees and projects including the yearbook, the Canine Phenome Project, and a health database for the Endowment. I organized a blood drive in central Texas to collect DNA for the CPP and later collected DNA swabs from central Texas Wheatsens to support the research being conducted by Dr. Littman. In the past I also helped with the Montgomery weekend activities including the banquet and obedience trials.

How many litters have you bred? Who was your first finished champion, performance titleholder, etc? I have bred 7 litters. My second Wheaten and first champion was Ch Duidream Great Escaper from a litter of Bonnie O'Connor's. She introduced me to dog shows and to SCWTCA, which I joined in 1999. I also purchased my foundation bitch from Bonnie, Ch Duidream Scampi for Escapade. My first performance titleholder was Katdancer Irish Lace MXP MJP NFP OA OAJ. Of the four Wheatsens living with me now all hold performance titles and two are conformation champions as well. I love dogs with titles on both ends of their names!

What all breed, obedience, agility or breed clubs do you belong to? I train with the Pawdogs agility group in Austin and teach their beginning and intermediate agility classes from time to time. On behalf of the Bluebonnet Norfolk Terrier Club I have conducted puppy socialization seminars at the San Antonio summer dog shows. We show owners and breeders ways to incorporate a variety of learning activities and tools in their young puppies' routine to build self-confidence, motor skills, and focus. The socialization seminar also gives the demo puppies experience playing with a variety of breeds and unfamiliar people in a controlled situation. It was great fun for the puppies and people alike.

Do you have club experience or work experience that especially qualifies you for the SCWTCA board? My job as a lobbyist required long days planning legislative strategies and discussing proposed legislation with client organizations and legislators. Evenings were spent wining and dining elected officials and their spouses. What I developed in those years besides 10 extra pounds was an ability to work effectively with a variety of people and sometimes competing interests. I am proud of the reputation I had at the Capitol for being honest, straightforward, and well informed.

If you could pick one thing to focus on for the next year, what would it be and why? In joining the board I do not have an agenda and it's a bit early to choose an area of focus. I have much to learn but I hope to be a productive member. I bring an appreciation for both conformation and performance sports and hope I can represent both interests effectively on the board. I am easy going, results oriented, and positive in my outlook.

What's the funniest thing that happened to you at a dog show when you first started out? At an agility trial with my young dog, we entered the ring and I put him in a sit at the start line. When I released him to take the first obstacle he was overcome with excitement and the 'zoomies' took control. He ran at top speed in ever widening circles around me, occasionally coming in close but never quite close enough for me to grab him. The crowd began to laugh and cheer and finally he stopped in front of me and offered me a perfect play bow. What chutzpah!

Another time (same dog but as a puppy in conformation at Great Western) he stood patiently in line for his turn and equally patiently while being examined by the judge. When she asked for the down and back he wouldn't move until he had stretched every part of his body to his satisfaction, first extending the left front leg, then ever so slowly the right front leg...stretch. Then the left rear leg...STRETCH...then the right rear leg. As the judge grew impatient I could hear chuckles from the onlookers. It seemed like an eternity until he was finished and I'm sure my face was bright red but I knew he wouldn't move well until he had loosened up all those tight muscles. No surprise, we didn't win that day.
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*****
A puppy's brown eyes once asked me, "Don't you know I'm here? You run out with this one, evaluate that one; I smile and I laugh, but you do not see."

"On Monday, my love, On Monday," I said, "We'll sit in the sun, just you and me, and you'll teach me to love, all of the little ones, each of the little ones, little ones not as yet famous."

And then she was a starlet.

The ingenue's eyes then asked me, "Don't you know I'm here? You snarled at that lady who said something snotty but she hugs her dog, she loves her dog, so in her there must be some good."

"On Monday, my love, On Monday," I said, "We'll sit in the sun, just you and me, and you'll teach me to love, all of the people, each of the people, the people who love dogs like I do."

And then she was a champion.

The showgirl's bright eyes then asked me, "Don't you know I'm here? You're mad at that lady who gave us no ribbon but I sure had fun though some other dog won and it hurts me when you are unhappy."

"On Monday, my love, On Monday," I said, "We'll sit in the sun, just you and me, and you'll teach me to love, all of the people, each of the people, the people who give out the trophies."

And then she was a Mama.

The Motherdog's eyes then asked me, "Don't you know I'm here? You kiss my fat babies, you brag on the phone, and I swell with pride and their daddy does too but I need you to tell me I'm special."

On Monday, my love, On Monday," I said, "We'll sit in the sun, just you and me, and you'll teach me to love, all of the parents, each of the parents, the parents as much as the babies."

And then she was an old lady.

The veteran's eyes then asked me, "Don't you know I'm here? You run out with this one, evaluate that one; I smile and I laugh, but you do not see."

"On Monday, my love, On Monday," I said, "We'll sit in the sun, just you and me, and you'll teach me to love, all of the older ones, each of the older ones, older ones no longer famous."

And then she died. On Monday.

••••••••••••••••••

On Tuesday, a puppy's brown eyes asked me,

"Don't you know I'm here..."

(Re-printed with the author's permission from Sight & Scent, June 2014)
Celebrating Long Life
wheatens that have shared their lives with us for 13 years or more

CROMADRA’S AIDAN

Earlcroft’s Ventura x Lahardanah Roxy

December 25, 1999

Aidan has enjoyed life with two Wheaten girls and now has a rescue boy to keep him on his feet, defending the house. A daily mile walk and an enthusiasm for meals mark his days now. I should have named him “thumper” for the vibrating tail sounding on the side of his crate. He adjusted to Florida life after a brief time in Oklahoma but is not a happy dog during our “wet” season. Being hard of hearing is a benefit during some storms. From a very energetic puppy, he became a good tempered adult. A one time catch of an opossum in the yard caused him to hyperventilate for a half hour after the experience. Life is good and he continues to be a loyal companion. Aiden was bred by Emily Holden.

Owner: Susan Robinson Breeder: Emily Holden

CH WINTERWHEATS JNA THEODORE P BEAR “TED”

Ch Galway Winterwheat JNA Chase x Ch Winterwheats JNA Peggy Sue ROM

April 15, 2000

A dignified old man, our sweet old bear turned 14 in April! Last year we shared with you the story of his 13th birthday celebration. Since that time, Theodore P. Bear, has slowed down a bit more, but he still enjoys many of his favorite sleeping places and treats. He snores with the best of them and can fall asleep in an instant. Ted is still chasing the squirrels in our backyard, with the hopes of catching his first one!

My sons and their friends show great reverence for a fine old gentleman of his age. Recently they have been known to curl up next to him for a little warmth, loving and a quick nap. Their love for each other has gown exponentially these past few years.

It is a privilege to spend the quite moments with Ted. His hearing and seeing are not the best and he seems almost to be a bit forgetful, maybe he is providing a glimpse into our future! We have been so blessed to have had Ted as a part of our family for these past 14 years. I hope to be writing again next year on the occasion of his 15th birthday!

Owners: Peter and Laurie Sterling Breeders: Jim & Nancy Andersen & Bette Eckstrom
CH SANWILLY’S KISS ME KATE  “KATIE”

Ch Bryr Rose Errol Flynn X Ch Mil Mear’s Pure Country

August 29, 2001

Katie was our third show dog. She loved being in the ring and even today, when she’s on the grooming table, you can almost see her thinking “It’s ring-time again for me.” She still has one of the most beautiful wheaten coats I have ever seen.

Katie now settles for her walks and follows me around when she sees I am getting ready to go out. Even though she sleeps a lot, she still has her very playful Wheaten moments. And, she continues to herd her human family. Katie has had 3 litters and produced some very nice puppies. Her health remains good. And she is still “Queen” of our household.

Katie is our only Wheaten that talks to us. If the water dish is empty, she lets us know. If it’s time to eat, she lets us know. And, if it’s time for her to go on her walk, she lets us know. HAPPY BIRTHDAY KATIE!

Breeder/owners: Bill & Sandy Wiedenhoeft

SANWILLY’S IRISH CREAM  “SIDNEY”

Ch Bryr Rose Errol Flynn X Ch Mil Mear’s Pure Country

August 29, 2001

Sidney came into our family thirteen years ago and currently lives in Mukwonago, Wisconsin.

We saw the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier breed at a dog show and knew that we had to adopt such a dog. It is true that the breed is the Peter Pan of the terriers. Sidney is a kid at heart, sweet and sensitive. She loves her walks, riding in cars, playing hide and seek game, protecting her family members and home, chewing on her bone after dinner and of course relaxing in the soft grass while watching the neighbors. She often joins the family as a spectator at agility trials and seems to enjoy being at the event. Once fall and winter comes, she is in her element and cannot wait for the first flake of snow to fall so she can romp in the snowdrifts and sniff and eat the snow. Time is catching up with her though and we see her often lounging in her favorite chair. As the senior-most dog in our household, she still claims the title of queen and the respect that goes along with it. She is so special to us and there will be no other like her. We will love her always and forever…our sweet Sidney!

Owners: Dave and Linda Huenink Breeder: Sandy Wiedenhoeft

BROOKDENE RIVER DANCE  “MISTY”

Fr Ch Made in Irlande Dal Tara x Fr Ch Brayson Dainty Lass

April 1, 2000

Misty was an adorable puppy with alert, smart eyes, a big black nose, and tiny ears … and an eagerness to play and please! She has been a sweet, loyal, obedient friend; excellent hunter; and fun family member since the start. It’s hard to accept that she is now over 14 years old but the proof is there when I see her moving slower and sleeping longer, and, of course, my children, her original playmates, have now graduated college and are starting out on their own life journeys. She still greets my every arrival with a Wheaten greeting and shows her special love for the summer lake house and all our family who gather there. Every day I have loved seeing her little happy face and I am so grateful to Jennifer for this special spark in my life. We are cherishing this fourteenth summertime with our Misty-girl.

Owners: Bob and Sandy Ross Breeder: Jennifer Mulholland, France
Regis was the love of our life. Ever since he came to our home in March, 2000 he thought he was in charge. He acted like a “tough guy” but he had a heart of gold. He loved being with people, always greeting them until they petted him...a lot! He was a fabulous therapy dog, starting with a “Read to Regis” program in Cincinnati, Ohio with inner city children, and ending his therapy duties at the Broward North Hospital Rehabilitation ward in Coral Springs, Florida. Although he had to share his therapy work with a pony names Elvis, when Regis arrived at the hospital, everyone stopped what they were doing to give him “his loving,” and boy, did he love to cuddle. His vet said he was the best-behaved and most loving Wheaten he had ever known.

When his “brother,” Wrigley, passed in January, 2014, Regis was genuinely confused and died almost two weeks later. We were able to nurse him back to health for four more months of sweetness before he became ill again and passed in his favorite backyard.

We have been so fortunate to have had two loving Wheatens and fostered two. Our thanks go out to Lorie Toivola, Dana Frady and Gay Dunlap for allowing us to have this dog for so many years. Our love for this breed is never ending. We know our two buddies are together, and although that gives us some peace, we still miss their daily presence. We will never forget all the joy, love and laughter we shared with you, Reg.

Owners: Sue and Bruce Peters

Breeder: Gay Dunlap

Clover has been a real joy to have since she joined our family. Always ready to go in the car for a ride, her official AKC registered name is “Driving Miss Clover.” A well-traveled Wheaten, she has come along on a number of family vacations over the years...to New Orleans, Panama City Beach, Florida, and Birmingham, Alabama to name a few.

When Clover’s primary owner, Marissa, was rowing on the MSU Club Rowing team and traveling to Conference Regatta meets at Ohio State, Indiana, and Grand Valley State University; and National Regattas in Philadelphia and Oakridge, Tennessee...Clover was there. She walked along the river, watching the action and “barking” her approval and support. She joined Marissa’s rowing mates in the cheers, but doing it in her own way. Just a typical “Wheatie.”

Most recently this spring, Clover traveled to Washington D.C., where she walked around the tidal basin, the Mall and joined her family for a picnic in Georgetown. On the same trip, Clover stayed on a farm near Charlottesville, Virginia; where she became fascinated by the chickens and roosters. Of course her favorite farm animals have always been cows. Clover lives close to Michigan State University so she gets over to the campus farms regularly to check out the livestock.

We are looking forward to more fun with Clover at our place near Lake Michigan this summer. She loves the water and going into the Lake, but doesn’t always look forward to her bath.

Owners: Bill, Chris & Marissa Perry

Breeders: Karen Mueller and Maggie Evans
**CH GLEANNGAY KEEP THE FAITH, UD, TD, OA, OAJ (VCD2), NA  “MAIZY”**

Ch Gleanngay Daring Display x Ch Gleanngay Arf ‘N Annie  
June 6, 1999

We have “kept the faith” all these years…kept the faith that Maizy would not become affected like her grandfather and mother. It must have worked. Her tests always came back negative and at 15, she’s as healthy as a horse. Her terrier personality has mellowed some and she’s hard of hearing but she still takes the steps two at a time. We went for a walk the other evening, and she had to lead the pack, pulling on the leash, tail held high and keeping the other dogs in line.

Unfortunately, when her mother, “Annie,” was diagnosed, we decided to have her spayed. It was a major example of throwing the baby out with the bath water. I am always so touched when her breeders, Gay and Dana, look at her and shake their heads. I know what they’re thinking. That she’s a wonderful example of what they were striving for in their breeding program. It’s so too bad they didn’t have a crystal ball to tell what the future held for her. And my breast swells, as though I had something to do with her breeding!

She competed in obedience, agility and tracking. Obedience was hard because she thought she should drive the bus and I should sit in the back. She made up her own exercises. People would poke each other ringside whispering, “Maizy is about to go in. Let’s see what she does this time!” And she had such an attitude in the ring, she would catch the eye of others, even from across the room.

One of my most precious memories will always be celebrating her 15th birthday at our St. Louis specialty this June. In her tiara, she allowed us to be in her presence on Sunday, gaiting for everyone up and down the wide isles. She barely lost her step. I could see friends as well as handlers stop what they were doing to watch, shaking their heads at how amazing this little dog is at such an old age. Amazin’ Maizy!

**Owner:**JoAnne Vogt  
**Breeders:** Gay Dunlap and Dana Frady

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**CH LIL’TOWN HOUSE OF ARDNACASSA  “NIAMH”**

Ch Wheaten Rebel's Odessa File x Ch Lil’Town Midnight Flirtation CD  
April 4, 2001

Niamh came from a litter of two…I knew right from the start she had what it took to be a great show girl. She had great structure, she was pretty, feisty and quite the alpha bitch with a “look-at-me attitude.” She became a champion at 15 months. She was top 25 and invited to the Eukanuba Nationals twice (winning an Award of Merit). She was Number 4 all-breed in 2004 and was invited to Westminster where she showed nicely. Because of different circumstances in her life and mine she only had one litter of two puppies. Both have gone on to produce nice Champions. She has a grandson, Fiddler, now working towards his Silver Grand Championship. We are very proud of him.

Niamh is still very active. She rules our home. When my grooming dogs come to visit she insists that they head right down stairs to the grooming area. She is not the typical Wheaten as she loves squirrels, deer and even walks among the ducks that Frank feeds. She shares her love with both of us equally, but loves most the one with goodies for her. She knows when it is Monday morning as that is banking day and cannot figure out why the machine at the bank gives her goodies. First thing Monday morning she twirls around, hits me on the leg and says come on let’s go. She continues to bring joy and happiness to us each and every day. We hope and pray she will be with us for many more years…we do not know what we would do without her!

**Breeder/Owners:** Frank and Carol Shaltz
THREE GLEANNGAY SISTERS CELEBRATE THEIR THIRTEENTH BIRTHDAYS!

Ch Gleanngay Tiger Eye x Amaden Gleanngay Dr Quinn
July 7, 2001  Breeders: Gay Dunlap and Dana Frady

CH GLEANNGAY QUINTESSA ROM “TESSA”  Owners: Sherrie and Scott Amon, Glenamon

Although Tessa may not be the “typical” Wheaten with her more aloof attitude and preference to be off in a corner somewhere quietly observing her world until she feels the need to alert to visitors or vigorously attempt to intimidate the various cats or squirrels wandering by the glass doors, Tessa was the perfect Wheaten for us! As a puppy, she was quietly confident and alert and I remember how surprised we were when she barked for the first time at six months old. The deep sound of her adult dog bark told us she was growing up. These days Tessa’s weakened sight and hearing give her rest from guard duties and she protects her old body by no longer attempting to keep rambunctious youngsters in line. While it saddens us to see less spring in her steps, we fondly smile when Tessa shows us some of her old skip and bounce in anticipation of going “bye by” or when greeting visitors and us. Tessa and her breeders, Gay Dunlap and Dana Frady, have made great contributions to both our family’s lives and “Wheaten World.” She has proved her worth both in the show ring and in the whelping box. She is a Great-great grandmother; her contributions to Glenamon, Gleanngay, Jendu, Makanme, Lochlinear, Gemstone, Bendacht and others continue to benefit and spread through the generations. Our Wheaten journey began with my ill-timed one day down and back flight to New Mexico on 9/11 (which became a 4 day odyssey) and the journey continues. Scott and I will always be grateful that our rough start brought us to such memorable experiences and great people. Tessa, bless her heart, just wants to sleep in and nap.

CH GLEANNGAY QUINTILIAN “TILLY”  Owner: Gay Dunlap

Tilly is the last of a long line of Gleanngay Wheatens to share their lives with me. Precious does not begin to describe her. A small bitch, she barely makes 17” and I remember Bergit Coady saying to me, “She is adorable but she will never make size…sell her as a pet!” “Not on your life,” I thought to myself. Tilly gained her championship quickly, maturing into an even lovelier adult, very much her sire’s (Ch Gleanngay Tiger Eye) daughter with his perfect little well-set ears and gloriously golden, silky, wavy coat.

One of the great disappointments as a breeder is that, due to the ill advice of a vet, Tilly was not bred until she was 5 years old. This is further fueled today by the knowledge that both she and her sire tested DNA Homozygous Normal. Tilly was bred only twice, with a bout of pyometra in between. She was self-sufficient, on both occasions quietly, all on her own, free-whelping. I would find her in the morning sitting in her crate with an entire litter, all cleaned-up and nursing. I was amazed because none of the other dogs made a sound either. That’s how quiet the entire birthing process was! I would praise her wondrousness and gently move the pups and her into the whelping box that had been set up for days in my office. Tilly gave me two beautiful litters. And through them, the hope that Gleanngay might go on, at least for a while longer.

She loves her rides in the car and walks around the two small lakes in our gated community and detests our “dog park!” She is the sweetest Wheaten I have ever owned, with the patience of a saint. I sense that my Mini Bull, Roxy, is the scourge of Tilly’s existence and yet she puts up with her. Tilly, I love you beyond all measure!

GLEANNGAY QUINELLA “ELLA”  Owner: Kay Baird, Kaylynn

We brought Ella home from her breeder, Gay Dunlap, in late Aug. 2001. She was a great traveler for such a young pup. Gay had called her Ella, but after a few months, my then husband announced he didn’t like that name and wanted to change it. Although I was fine with “Ella,” I agreed to another name. After a couple of years, my husband and I separated. I can’t remember what name she had between, but after our separation, I returned to calling her “Ella.” I have also called her Miss Ella, Mzella, Ella Bella, and even Molly, because in temperament, she reminds me so much of my first Wheaten. Ella has answered to all these names, although now she answers to none…only to the sound of kibble in her bowl! Ella was bred once via surgical insemination. When I picked her up after spending the night at the vet clinic, I was presented with an essay, supposedly written by Ella, about her surgery and stay. One of the comments about her after care was, “I need to rest for a few days,” AND, “Oh, Rats, no baths for 2 weeks.” A few years later. Ella was attacked by another dog, which necessitated a rush to the vet. The techs said she was the best patient ever and while they knew it hurt when they cleaned and treated the wounds, Ella never once cried out, tried to bite and never squirmed. This is so typical of her temperament. She is and has been for many years, the best dog in my house.✨
I never dreamed back in 1992 that casually meeting two SCWTCA members/breeders at the U of MN attending an eye clinic would have the positive outcome it has on a whole community of unaware SCWT owners. Here in Minnesota, the majority of SCWTs come via backyard breeders and puppy mills, mixed in with a hardly few SCWTCA breeders that choose to reside in this arctic tundra. The contrast has always been stark.

I was at the U of MN that warm May day to see my Wheaten in ICU. At two and a half, he was diagnosed with acute kidney failure and all I knew, as a single woman, was that my beloved SCWT, my constant companion and best friend, was dying. I didn't know about PLN or PLE's prevalence (he had both) or the need to test, but I was an enthusiastic first time SCWT owner. I did everything right but I didn't know the first thing about inherited Wheaten health issues or testing. Meeting them and, simultaneously, Dr Jody Lulich DVM, PhD; Clinical Urology, who was followed closely in clinic by a SCWT with PLN, would lead to the gift of a clinic with the benefit of educating the larger, unaware Wheaten community in MN. The two SCWT Breeders I met that day were Kathy Eichman and Roni Andrews; through them I was recruited into the club, learned about the code of ethics, real conformation, health issues and breeding, not to mention close long-term friendships as a member of SCWTCA that included Montgomery. But the most important result evolved over time.

Although Roni moved away and Kathy retired, there remained a large and unaware pet community hungry for information and anxious to give their SCWTs the best of care.

Twenty-two years have passed and today we're all about creating an 'event' for SCWT owners where they commit to test their dogs for a SCWT health screen that focuses on kidney health but also provides full testing; Biochemical profile, Routine Urinalysis, Urine Protein/Creatinine Ratio at bare cost ($48). Because we no longer do mailers, we reach our audience through email, social media and the local “SCWT Meet-up” Group. We have a modest Facebook page to promote ourselves but basically we reach the pet owner who is otherwise forgotten in areas like ours with mills and backyard breeders proliferating across the Upper Midwest. This year someone drove 6 hours from Racine WI to attend, as well as Rochester MN, a 90-minute drive, resulting in the largest clinic ever since we abandoned the breeder mailing lists in 2007.

The “take-away” is that SCWT pet-owners are passionate about the breed and most buy a second and third SCWT so this is a tremendous foundation to educate the pet owner on what we set as the standard for breeding: health screens, DNA screening, CERF, OFA etc. Most of these owners learn what they need to ask, how they need to screen their “breeder” for the next puppy they buy and in turn, often ask, “How do I find a reputable SCWT Breeder?” Yes, we have several breeders in attendance, but those of us in the club know what to test for and it's an added convenience for us to have the testing done at cost. This is really about laying the foundation for future SCWT pet owners who, in turn, share with other prospective owners.

The greatest reward is the smile on the faces of a couple coming in with their dog dancing on hind legs in one hand and their urine specimen in the other, thanking the three of us who volunteer with Dr Lulich over and over again, for doing this. There is the fellowship of commonality among attendees and the emails thanking us for this screening because they found something that their vet is now managing. They thank Dr Lulich and always leave saying ‘see you next year!’ The hug, the friends bringing friends, creating awareness about SCWT Health is what this annual clinic is about. It’s the WHY I’m committed, above all else, to continue to make this happen as long as I have the kind generosity and partnership of Dr Jody Lulich volunteering for this labor of love.

Visit and ‘Like us’ at MN SCWT Health Screen on Facebook – Extra proceeds are donated to the SCWTCA Endowment Fund and Partners; U of MN c/o Dr Lulich for Urological research.
I first heard about Barn Hunt from an agility friend who is certified as a Barn Hunt judge, and being up for trying new things with my two Wheatens, Murphy and Tinkerbell, decided to try it out. The three of us are loving this sport, which lets the dogs use their terrier instincts to do a job they were bred for.

According to the official Barn Hunt website (http://www.barnhunt.com), the purpose of Barn Hunt is to demonstrate a dog’s vermin hunting ability in finding and marking rats (safely enclosed in aerated tubes) in a “barn-like” setting, using straw/hay bales to introduce climbing and tunneling obstacles in the dog’s path. Barn Hunt is based on the skills historically used by itinerant “rat catchers” in traveling the countryside, ridding farms of vermin, thus helping conserve and preserve food grains and cutting down on disease. Typically, rat catchers were small to medium sized terrier breeds. Today, we don’t use our dogs for this task, but the instinct is still in them.

Barn Hunt is open to any breed or mixed breed that can fit through an 18” wide gap between two hay bales. It combines nose work, agility and hunting into a fun game for the dog and human. Since it is a sporting event, there are different levels of difficulty tested, with titles given for dogs that complete these tests based on the rules for each level. It also relies on teamwork between the handler and the dog. The dog’s job is to find the rat(s) in a PVC tube and indicate the rat is there. The handlers’ job is to lead the dog’s signal that he has found the rat and tell the judge where the rat is.

Barn Hunt sport is meant to emulate real life skills. Dogs who are unwilling to go into small dark places or climb up bales will not be effective raters. The willingness to encounter and conquer adversity in pursuit of the “prey,” (in this case not really since rats are not harmed) is an important breed instinct trait for many breeds. For non-vermin hunting breeds it demonstrates confidence and drive.

There are many titles to be earned in Barn Hunt starting with an Instinct test. One does not have to pass the Instinct test before moving into the Novice category, although it is a good learning experience for you and the dog. In “Instinct,” three tubes are put out in hay, one has a rat, another rat litter and the third is empty. First, the dog gets to recognize the smell of the rat and second, it helps the handler see how a dog will indicate he has found the rat. My dogs, Murphy and Tinkerbell, each found the rat tube immediately, although I was slower at picking up their signals and made them check each tube. When they went back to the first tube, I called the rat. Also, their signals were very subtle, only tail wagging going on so I needed to learn to recognize that as their “tell.” Some of the dogs were very enthusiastic about the tube with the rat, so their handlers had an easier time calling the rat. I learned at the Instinct test to get your dog(s) out of the ring fast because, with male dogs particularly, the adrenaline rush of finding their prey increases their urge to urinate and this is a fault at any level. So, Murphy was disqualified on his first try. Second time we left the ring quickly.

Since, as a complete novice in the sport I did not realize I could sign the dogs up for Novice at the same time as Instinct, we were back in Sheboygan the next month for our first trial. In Novice, a dog must find and identify the rat in the PVC tube, climb onto
a bale of straw and go through a short straight tunnel in under 2 minutes. That weekend we were entered for four trials, 2 each day. Out of 4 trials, each dog qualified twice. I learned a lot about trusting my dogs. One time, Murphy immediately went to the rat, but because it was on the outside of the ring of straw bales, I assumed that the rat would not be hidden there, so I did not call his find. My bad. Tinkerbell was so subtle in telling me she has found the rat, I sometimes guessed, but wrongly. She is getting more excited as we move forward so I am hopeful that I will get better at calling the rats.

Our next trial was at the IKC trial at McCormick Place. They had added this as a demonstration event and only allowed 100 dogs. We drew lots of spectators at each trial so it was noisier than a typical trial held in a barn or shed. Murphy, who is fearless, has been to McCormick Place many more times at dog shows and trials than Tinkerbell, took all the noise in stride. He completed his third leg in Novice in the first trial and moved up to Open for the remainder of the weekend. Tinkerbell, more sensitive to things outside her norm, had trouble focusing on her job the first day. The second day went much better for her and she completed her legs for her Novice title. It was a successful weekend, both dogs finishing their Novice Barn Hunt (RATN) title and moving on to Open Barn Hunt.

As with other performance events, the degree of difficulty is higher with each level you move to in Barn Hunt. Dogs in Open, must find 2 rats in less than 2 ½ minutes, go through a bent tunnel, discriminate between two tubes with rats and two tubes with litter and find at least one of the rats on an elevated bale of hay. The first runs with Murphy and Tinkerbell were NQ’s, mostly because I did not read their finds correctly. Murphy went back to one spot a couple of times and I did not call the rat because he didn’t seem enthusiastic enough for it to be a rat. The judge told me that if a dog repeatedly visits a spot there is probably a rat there. Another time, he found the rat, but when I called it, I wasn’t pointing to where the rat was. Lessons learned.

At our next trial in April we were outdoors in a covered space. It was a very cold, windy day, the latter playing havoc with the smells. Each dog completed one leg in Open, finding their two rats in the time allotted. Murphy might have had two legs but one time he stopped at an area, stuck his head up in the air and sniffed but moved on. The judge said she thought the smells were being blown away by the wind. The second day, with the weather worse, I decided not to go…typical spring day in Wisconsin.

May took us back to the same location, but with beautiful weather both days. As we progress, I find that I need to read my dogs “tell signs” differently. Murphy is more enthusiastic. He will push the straw out of his way with his nose and dig in to really expose the rat tube. Tinkerbell is more subtle. She will wag her tail and maybe point her nose at the rat tube. She also tends to tire of the game sooner than Murphy and likes to go look at the people standing outside the ring, so she needs more direction. Murphy hunts, checking out all of the spots on his own. He finished his Open title that weekend and completed one leg in Senior, which surprised me since the level of difficulty is doubled at that level. Tinkerbell got one leg in Open.

The month of June saw us at another venue in Northern Wisconsin, indoors, and thus much nicer for people and dogs. Tinkerbell surprised me by finding her two rats immediately in the first trial and ending up as High in Class for that trial. She now needs one more qualifying leg to move into Senior. Unfortunately, that was the only leg either dog qualified in.

Not sure why, but Murphy was slow to the game the first leg and only found one rat. The next two runs he was very fast and found the rats, I just did not call them. As we progress, his skills are getting better than mine and I need to trust him to do his work. We have another trial scheduled in August.

The remaining titles that can be earned are:

Senior Barn Hunt (RATS) – The dog must find 4 rats in 3.5 minutes or under. There are more straw bales and an extra turn or two in the tunnel. Three Qualifying legs must be earned.

Master Barn Hunt (RATM) – The dog must find between 1 and 5 rats in 4.5 minutes or under. The handler does not know how many rats are hidden and must tell the judge when the dog has found all the rats. Five Qualifying legs must be earned.

Barn Hunt Champion (RATCH) – Ten Qualifying legs from RATM class

Barn Hunt Champion (RATCHX) – Prerequisite RATCH title, Ten Qualifying legs.

Although Barn Hunt is not yet an AKC event, a trial can be held in conjunction with an AKC show and AKC will, for a fee, add the title to the dog’s records if you register it with them.
I was very honored and pleased to be asked to judge your 2014 specialty. Wheatens have always been one of the breeds that I have admired and love to judge, and the exhibitors are always gracious. Overall the entry was strong, most were of proper proportions and had steady happy temperaments. Coats generally were very good. Just about all of the dogs were in at least nice condition and the majority were good side movers. Size did not seem to be a real issue at all. The issues I did see were that there were very few dogs that were sound on the down and back. I think this is an area that still needs work. Breeders should also keep in mind length of leg as there were more than a couple that could have benefited from a little bit more length of leg. Finally, quite a few of the dogs lacked proper forechest. I believe the Wheaten should have some amount of forechest. Being in the Terrier Group, as well as being heavily coated, this is sometimes easy to lose. So watch those shoulder angles and length of upper arm.

6-9 Dogs
1. #21 - WHINDANCER’S HARVEST MOON - This dog had a nice outline with good tail set on, but a bit to long. He had nice ears breaking at the skull giving a pleasing expression. He was sound on the down and back.

2. #17 - GREENTREE O’MANNION JACKPOT - This puppy was square, had good head planes, but a bit heavy in head. He was very happy and energetic, and a bit wild making it difficult to evaluate him.

9 – 12 Dogs
1. (RWD)#29 - WHEATEN REBEL’S TAKE A TICKET TO GREENTREE - This puppy had excellent forechest and neck and shoulder transition with a correct tailset and carriage. He was square in body proportion. His coat was nicely soft and flowing. He moved a little loosely in front which hopefully will tighten up with maturity. He was well balanced overall.

2. #25 - CLOVER’S MR. BLUE SKY - This puppy was square in body proportion with a nice short back. He looked very nice on the move and had a pleasing head. His tail could have been place a bit higher on his back. Hopefully his forechest will develop more as he matures.

12 – 18 Dogs
1. #19 - WHINDANCER’S LIGHT MY FIRE - This dog had a nice square body proportion. His outline suffered from a somewhat soft topline. He had a very nice long clean head with good planes and ears breaking and set properly. He had very good rear movement.

2. #39 - EDGEWOOD SLOWLY LEARNING THAT LIFE IS OK - This young dog had a very good square outline with good neck and shoulder transition. He moved nicely around the ring. While having acceptable head planes and flat skull he was a bit heavy in head with ears somewhat low set affecting his expression.

Bred-by Dogs
1. #23 - WHINDANCER BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE - This dog had an excellent outline and square proportion length to height, with good length of leg. He had a very good rear. He had very good substance and a nice soft wavy coat. His expression was pleasing. Overall this was quite a nice dog, but his tail, which curled over, almost touching his back, really took away from the overall impression of the dog and was quite troubling.

2. #41 - EDGEWOOD TAKE ON ME - This was a young dog and needs to mature more. When he does he will be a very nice dog. He had an excellent outline with solid topline and good tailset and carriage. His head was clean, fairly long, with good ears, and pleasing expression. He had a very good soft, wavy coat.

Open Dogs
1. (WD, BOW, BOS) #7 - GREENTREE FEIS DANCER MIDNIGHT TOBASCO WALTZ - This was a very impressive dog. He was fully matured and every bit a male. He had a very steady temperament. He had a long head very much in proportion to his body with good parallel planes, flat skull and clean cheeks. He had medium ears break and set properly giving a nice
continued from page 47

expression. He had plenty of forechest, with very solid and square outline and proper tail set and carriage. He was a very good mover and had a very correct Irish type with very good texture and wave. The only issue I had with this dog was that he was bit larger than the ideal.

6-9 Bitches

1. #46 - O’MANNION GREENTREE HEARTBREAKER – This puppy has a very nice temperament. Her square outline was good and tailset and carriage was correct. She had a nice moderately long clean head with a lovely expression.

2. #44 - O’MANNION GREENTREE HEART OF STONE – This puppy had a good outline and tailset. She was square and had very nice substance for her age. Her expression was a bit lacking.

9-12 Bitches

1. #28 - CARRICK’S POLLYANNA – This puppy was square in body proportion with a very nice flowing coat for her age. Her head was nicely clean and long

2. #24 - CLOVER’S SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED – This puppy had a good coat. Her outline was nice with good tailset. She needed a bit more leg under her and less length.

12-18 Bitches

1. (RWB)#34 - COVENTRY SEANCHAL PENNY SERENADE – This bitch had a good neck and shoulder transition with a lovely high tailset and proper carriage. She had a nice amount of forechest with proper angles and was balanced. While her side movement was very nice, she was bit close moving behind and could had used a bit looser coat.

1. #50 - LISMORE PAST FORGETTING – This bitch was very pleasing and similar in type to the winner of this class, with good neck and should transition, outline and tailset, although she was bit straighter in shoulder. Her size and substance were nice. Her coat could have used move wave. Her rear crossed over somewhat.

Bred-By Bitches

1. #40 - CULEANN DIRTY LAUNDRY – This bitch was square in outline with a nice high tailset. She a very nice clean long head with attractive expression.

2. #10 - CELA JUST CALL ME MAYBE – This bitch had very nice movement around the ring. She had a good length of leg. She needed a little more neck.

Open Bitches

1. (WB) #8 - BANNER JERSEY GIRL – This bitch was a real pleasure to see. She moved rather well around the ring and was very good coming and going. Her excellent outline was square with a solid topline and nice high tailset carried properly. She had a beautiful soft flowing coat that moved as she went around. She had a good length of head in proportion to her body which was clean with ears set breaking at her skull and pointing properly towards the ground giving her a great expression.

WINNER DOG, BEST OF WINNER, BEST OF OP SEX – GREENTREE FEIS DANCER MIDNIGHT TOBASCO WALTZ, owned by Kate Heller, Donna Baird & Bev McDonald. Breed by Kevin & Bev McDonald. Sire: Ch Greentree Keepsake Tobasco Cat, Dam: Ch Greentree Wind Dancer.

WINNERS BITCH – BANNER JERSEY GIRL, breeder owned by Pam and John Mandeville. Sire: Ch Whindancer Heart Like A Wheel, Dam: Ch Banner Shout. Always shown by Pam.

WINNERS BITCH – BANNER JERSEY GIRL, breeder owned by Pam and John Mandeville. Sire: Ch Whindancer Heart Like A Wheel, Dam: Ch Banner Shout. Always shown by Pam.

Best of Breed

#18 - GCH DOUBLOON’S EXTREME PLAY – This was an outstanding bitch. Her proportions were spot-on. Her outline and profile was impeccable. She was fully mature with good substance, had a proper forechest. Her coat was beautifully soft and gently curled and flowed as she showed her beautiful side movement. Her down and back was very clean and seemed to really enjoy herself and was full of confidence. She looked every bitch the part of a sporting terrier that you want to see in a Wheaten.■
I now have kids of my own, watch for them!
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CH Clover’s Moonstruck Reflection of Greentree

US & IRISH CH, GER CH (KFT & VDH), LUX CH, SWISS CH Wheaten Rebel’s Nelson For Navy

x

CH Greentree Clover Ooh La La

“TREASURE”

Thank you Liz, Bev, and Margret for this lovely girl!

HELEN FRAGUELA

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