

GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF ILLINOIS

Golden Moments Newsletter

April 2018

GRCI News & Updates

Welcome to GRCI Golden Moments! This version is mobile device friendly! We hope that it will be even more convenient for member communication. While we try our best to get everything updated, if you notice something that could be better or a link that isn't working, please give us your feedback.

Message from GRCI's President

Hello GRCI Members!

This past weekend was our Health Clinic and it was the place to be! So many dogs, of many breeds, did their eye and heart checks or got a microchip. This is such a valuable event as we all know our Goldens should have their eyes checked annually. A huge thanks to Pat Covek for organizing this clinic for 20 years! Now that is dedication to our breed. More thanks to Kaye Dahlquist, Pat Janes, Pat Alberts, Michelle Kolb, Barb Stevens and to Mark Rusley. Mark not only did the microchipping he allowed us to hold the clinic at the Dundee Animal Hospital facility.

I've so enjoyed the stories and the pictures from the Arlington Pet Expo. This was my first time at the event and I was very impressed with the organization and special touches that Cheri Mitchneck provides to our group. As we represent one of the most popular breeds we have a very busy booth. It takes a lot of members and their dogs to answer all the questions and receive all the petting and give all the doggie kisses. A HUGE thank you to Cheri and to all the many volunteers. We use this time to educate, educate, educate the public and from what I've heard we talked to a lot of people. Well done team!

Along that same line of thinking the Board had a long discussion on the "how to find a puppy" section of our web site. As we all know finding a good breeder who has litter plans can be a tough task for those not connected closely. Our first task will be to supplement our current information with better data on a well-bred puppy and what to look for in a breeder. We are also looking at other clubs to see how

they help the general public. More will come on this as we do our research but if you have any helpful thoughts/ideas please reach out.

We had a very well attended February meeting with a lot of interest in the new AKC rules presentation by Loretta Lazarra. Thank you to Jane Coen for arranging this timely conversation. Lots of new rules mean lots of questions. It will be interesting watching the shows after May 1 to see just how all of these rules are interpreted and applied. At our next meeting in April, we will have Dr. Erin O'Connor who will talk about animal chiropractic.

Our next major events are the May Hunt Test and the June Specialty and Obedience/Rally trial. The Hunt Test is May 5 and 6. The 4 specialties (June 15 & 16), and 2 Obedience/1 Rally trials on June 16. This will be a BUSY couple of days and we will need your help. Please keep those dates in mind. Beth Gerdes is looking for more help for the hunt test right now. A volunteer sign up will go out soon for the obedience trials. Thanks in advance for helping out. It takes a village to put on some of these events and thankfully we have a club that is willing to give their time. So appreciated!!!

We have a lot going on but are always open to new ideas. Do you have a thought on something you think club members could benefit from? Please share!

Donna Bihner. GRCI President
dbihner@gmail.com

GRCI General Meeting

Monday, April 23 7:00 p.m.

[535 S. Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174](#)

Dr. Erin O'Connor, a veterinary chiropractor will speak at 7:00 p.m., followed by the meeting

Dr. O'Connor is an animal chiropractor with offices in Geneva and Aurora, Illinois. She will address:

- The benefit of chiropractic & dog structure
- Warm-up/cool-down for the canine athlete
- Benefits of chiropractic for puppies

She will be available to answer any questions we have related to chiropractic services for our Golden Retrievers.

[GRCI Chicagoland Pet Expo Highlights](#)

Cheri Mitchneck coordinated volunteer shifts and provided Golden Retriever educational information for many visitors at the Chicagoland Pet Expo at Arlington Racetrack. The Golden's are a very popular booth to visit!

Here are some of the pictures from the Expo. More are on the GRCI Facebook page.

Michelle Kolb and Pizzazz

Laurie Stecker with an adorable young pup.

5 Shades of Golden!

GRCI Hunt Test - Volunteers Needed **Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6**

The GRCI hunt test is May 5th and 6th this year at Des Plaines Wild Life Area in Wilmington, IL. We still need help with getting lunches each day as well as getting pop and water and filling coolers for each stake. This is a great way to get an introduction to the hunt tests. No experience needed! Please contact Beth or Terry Gerdes at 309-310-3330 OR 309-287-9168. Please come out and see what your dogs were bred to do!

Thank you - Beth Gerdes

GRCI Specialty Committee Requests Your Help!

The Specialty Committee wishes to extend its sincere thanks to all of the GRCI Members who are sponsoring a trophy/prize for GRCI's Specialty on June 15 (conformation only) or for GRCI's two Specialties on June 16 (two conformation Specialties and two Obedience and two Rally Trials). Your generous donations help ensure the success of these important Club events.

There are still a number of conformation prizes that need donors, and we're still seeking a donor for the new, Triple High Combined - Rally prize for the two Rally Trials on June 16. Members are welcome to make a donation of any amount to the General Trophy Fund, as well.

Trophy donation checks should be made out to GRCI, with the notation "Specialty Trophy Donation" written on the memo line. Please mail your check to Jane Coen, Trophy Chair, at [926 Warrington Rd., Deerfield, IL 60015](mailto:jane@grci.org).

Please see the attached table to identify prizes still needing donors, and to confirm whether those of you who have pledged to sponsor a prize have already sent in your checks.

Thanks for your support of GRCI and this year's Specialty.

Jane Coen
GRCI Vice President and Specialty Committee Secretary and Trophy Chair

[List of Trophy Donation Options Attachment](#)

Wags and Brags

Kim Mroczenski reports that at the Great Lakes Belgian Terv trial Mark and PJ got their MACH 2! Club member and breeder Jamie Brown is pictured with the judges as well as our trainer and club member Robin Comp-Zelles is pictured, and she is in the picture with Mark and PJ.

They have worked very hard to balance fun(they have too much fun) with criteria for success! They move on to Preferred as PJ turned 10 in January!

Mark, PJ, Jamie Brown, Robin Comp-Zelles and agility judges. Mark, PJ and Robin Comp-Zelles

Donna Bihner reports that Parker earned his UDX in Lafayette IN. Our judge was Loretta Lazzarra who has done so many of our talks. Made it more fun!

Judge Loretta, Donna and Parker

Please share your Golden's accomplishments! Send an email summary and a photo to Cathy Williams at cwilliams0727@gmail.com to be included in the next Golden Moments!

Health and Wellness

by Cathy Williams

Skunks! How to avoid them and know what to do if your pet is sprayed!

Spring is in the air, and so is the smell of skunks from dusk to dawn! Here are some tips to avoid skunks and solutions if your pet is sprayed.

Avoid the Stinkers!

-Skunks come out at night, so keep a porch light on where you let your dog out. Motion sensor lights can be helpful too. Scan the yard with a bright flash light before letting your dog out, or keep him on a leash if you know a skunk is in the area.

-Have you noticed patches of shallow dig spots in your lawn? That is a sign a skunk has been busy in your yard overnight!

-Seal up any holes or openings under your porch or deck. Those make nice dens for a skunk family!

My pet was sprayed!!

Be prepared! Your pet will be sprayed at the most inconvenient time. Have an odor removal solution on hand this time of year. If your pet is sprayed, try to keep him in the garage or outside while you prepare the odor removal solution. Have a clean bucket of tepid water ready as well for rinsing.

Some clever entrepreneurs from a local high school created [Skunk-Aid](#). You can order this on-line to store as needed. Their kit includes a dry solution, a wet solution, a bottle, towel and gloves. (We have one on hand!)

You can use Krebaum's proven home recipe from:

1 quart hydrogen peroxide
1/4 cup baking soda
1 to 2 teaspoons liquid hand or dish soap

Keep these ingredients on hand but DO NOT MIX THEM IN ADVANCE. See the link to [Krebaum's recipe and instructions](#) for further directions.

Or, you can call [SkunkMasters](#) - a firm on call 24/7, who will come to your home and provide deodorizing services!

[Shop GRCI Merchandise!](#)

Show your support of GRCI through logo apparel, hats and outerwear. Check out the website - choose any item and size you like! They are nice for GRCI event chairs and committees, or for your competitions.

Sunshine Notes

Do you know someone in the hospital, sick or in need of some Sunshine in his or her life?

Call Laurie Stecker at 847-705-9172 or email at Aylwyn1@aol.com. She will arrange a cards or other forms of "sunshine" to brighten their day.

GRCI Board of Directors

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