



**GOLDEN
RETRIEVER
CLUB OF
ILLINOIS**

Golden Moments

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

We are an active club with many diverse interests in the Golden Retriever breed.

We sponsor vaccination clinics, heart and eye clinics, educational forums, hunt tests, working tests, an independent conformation/obedience specialty, agility trials and field training classes.

We have members from all over Illinois, southern Wisconsin and northern Indiana. The majority of our members are located in the Chicago and suburban Chicago areas.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Judy Bush

Hello Golden Members, your Goldens, and Dear Friends:

What a wonderful Agility event your Club presented July 27, 28 and 29, 2012. Exceptional! We want to extend thanks to Robin Comp Zelles, Annette Narel, and Kris Garra for producing another great event. Sandy Cummings and her crew of volunteers provided lunch for our helpers and guests. These members and their volunteers arranged for every detail to make sure this event was one to remember. We are very appreciative of their commitment and dedication to GRCI. Thank you all!

We have another Agility event coming up in October. Michelle Kolb will get a flyer out to all on the details at Rush n' Around at Annette Narel's beautiful facility. Make sure to come out to enjoy another golden event.

We had a wonderful turnout for our Annual Meeting/Picnic at Hawthorn's Back Yard on August 12, 2012 in West Chicago. Pat Alberts arranged a delicious menu for all to enjoy, and took care of all the numerous party details. As always, Pat did an outstanding job.

Kaye Dahlquist produced a Mini Tracking Seminar after the meal and encouraged everyone to participate. After a detailed explanation of tracking, Kaye encouraged members and their Goldens to enjoy observing their dog's scent abilities. Kaye even had a word search puzzle for all interested, prizes, and held everyone's interest. With Kaye's experiential background in tracking, many of our members were encouraged to give it a try. Thank you Kaye, and husband Jim, for the work you did to produce a memorable event for our members.

Congratulations to the five Goldens who earned their Canine Good Citizen designation at the Picnic, too. Rachel Anne and Kellie Cassandra, owned by Donna Smuskiewicz, Ricky and Mazzie, owned by Randy Johnson, and Racer owned by Ruth Smith. Great job by all!

And remember, the GRCI Tracking event will be held on October 13, and 14. Please feel free to come out and help with the event. More details shortly. Would enjoy having you join us.

Once again we will honor our members and their Goldens for their exceptional achievements during the last year at the Awards Program.

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Upcoming Meetings:

General Meeting

7:00 PM, October 17, 2012

Location: The Bellyrub Klub

612 E. Western Avenue,

Lombard, 60148

630-542-3559

Upcoming Events:

October 5, 6 & 7, 2012

GRCI Agility Trials!

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, continued

Please join us on Wednesday, October 17th, at the Belly Rub Klub, in Lombard to be a part of the proceedings. An email blast will be sent out with more details. We were thrilled that the number of applicants increased significantly over last year, and we have added the presentation of the Pete & Cathy Miller Award. Join us in a toast to our members' achievements with some bubbly (non alcoholic) champagne and beautiful cakes to celebrate this occasion. Randy Johnson, our Director of the Awards program has spent countless hours preparing the mountains of paperwork for the awards, working with the committee, and ordering the awards. Many thanks to an outstanding Board member, Randy Johnson!

We are pursuing another CCA event for GRCI, an additional Agility event is planned in February, and another Field Fun Day in April, by Ruth Smith for the enjoyment of our members and their golden's.

Welcome to two new Board members: Jane Coen, our new Director of Specialty and Barbara Gron Gross, new Director of Public Education. We look forward to working with you, and are appreciative of the talents you will be lending to GRCI.

All of these events would not be possible without the leadership of our officers and directors working together with club volunteers. Thanks to each of you for your dedication and commitment to the golden retriever breed and our members.

Warm golden regards to all,
Judy, Chase, and golden foster brother, Kemper



ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

By Judith C. Bush, MS, CJ

We are proud of member Kim Mroczenski, and her team of therapy dogs. The program at Indian Prairie Library has encouraged children to read, and improve their reading ability with a little help from some patient, talented therapy dogs. Please read the article and congratulations, Kim, for your dedication to help children in the community.

Reprinted from <http://burridge.suntimes.com/photos/galleries/14310131-417/dogs-make-good-listeners-in-indian-prairie-library-reading-program.html>



Alex Styczynski reads to Marley during a night of reading to the dogs Aug. 6 at the Indian Prairie Public Library. | Dan Luedert-Sun-Times Media

Continued on next column

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY, continued

Dogs make good listeners in Indian Prairie Library reading program

By ARCADIA KUST Contributor August 7, 2012

DARIEN — For children just beginning to read or anxious about reading aloud, Indian Prairie Public Library's Read to the Dogs program is designed to make reading a fun experience with the help of a comforting, furry face.

Marley, Driven, Kruiser, Gracie and Rosie were the five dogs at the library on Monday. During the program, offered to students in first through sixth grade, children took turns reading to a dog for 15 minutes each.

Classified as therapy dogs, the cuddly canines have undergone special training and are owned by volunteers from The Touch of Healing. The organization does other Read to the Dogs-type events, and also visits adults and children in hospitals, nursing homes and hospice settings.

Sisters Cecilia Murphy, 7, and Samantha Murphy, 10, both took part in the Read to the Dogs program for the first time on Monday evening. Cecilia, who is learning to read, had a chance to read aloud to Rosie, a giant Schnauzer, from the children's book *Today I Will Fly*. Samantha was reading from the aptly chosen *Dogerella*, a modern retelling of *Cinderella*, with *Dogerella* replacing the main character.

"I had a good time. As soon as I started reading, Rosie would fall asleep," said Cecilia with a smile.

"I wish it was like that with our dogs at home," said Burr Ridge resident Charlotte Murphy, Cecilia and Samantha's mother. "We do a lot of the programs that the library offers. The girls haven't done this one before, but we would definitely come back."

Monday night's program was the first in a series of three at the Indian Prairie Public Library. The program is also being offered on Aug. 13 and 20, though all of the 50 slots for readers — 25 each night — have already been filled.

"We've had the program available at the library since 2004," Youth Services Program Coordinator Mary Jo Wolski said. "It always fills up very fast."

Wolski originally met the director of The Touch of Healing, Kim Mroczenski, when Mroczenski was doing the same program for the Homer Township Public Library District.

"When I first heard about the idea, I just thought it sounded like such a great literacy helper that I got in touch with Kim right away. Fortunately, she was able to work us into their rotation," Wolski said.

For children interested but unable to attend the Indian Prairie program, the Brookfield Public Library offers R.E.A.D. to the Dogs on the 18th of every month, until the end of the year, and the Hinsdale Public Library also offers Pet Assisted Learning on Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8. Registration is required.

FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

Lottie and Ozzie's Biography, continued

On September 11, 2012, Stone City Kennel Club, PreLabs, Clear H2O and Tuckers Doggie Delights sponsored their first "For Those Who Serve" program held at Lincoln-Way Central High School in New Lenox, Illinois. This moving ceremony honored local dogs that serve the community in many ways, such as, Search and Rescue, Assistant Service and Therapy.

One of the dogs and human partners honored was Ozzie and Lottie Johnson for the work they do in the WAGS Therapy Dog Program.

Thank you, Lottie and Ozzie, for all the ways you have helped people over the years.

Lynn Mines, Editor

Lottie and Ozzie's Biography

I have spent thirty years in Private Montessori Education. I have been a teacher, director, and owner of several Day Care & Preschool centers. I was also an Executive Secretary for the Retired Teachers' Association of Chicago. I am proud of my accomplishments in the field of education but find that I am continually learning about life as I contribute to my community through volunteer activities with my dogs. One of my special dogs is a Golden Retriever named Ozzie.

Ozzie was one of our puppies born in my kitchen. He was a puppy that almost died shortly after his birth. When the puppies were 3 days old, we noticed a very foul smell coming from the whelping box. Upon examining all the puppies and their Mom, we found that one puppy's umbilical cord had been chewed short and had become infected. Of course this happened on a late Sunday evening. We wasted no time, and rushed the little puppy to a 24 hour emergency animal hospital. It was 10:30 when we signed in. There was a long waiting line of other people with their own dog emergencies. We were told that we would be waiting for quite awhile. This tiny little puppy was no bigger than the length of the palm of my hand. Wrapped in a towel and cradled on my lap, we anxiously waited. Not knowing how far the bacterial infection had invaded its abdomen, we feared the worst. The bacterial smell coming from him only increased our fears. Two hours had gone by when my husband said "This puppy needs to nurse." So I kept our spot in the waiting room line while my husband drove home with the puppy so he could nurse with the rest of his siblings. I pushed the nagging thought from my mind that this may be the puppy's last meal. My husband returned about two hours later with a well fed little puppy. I was still waiting our turn. Eventually we saw the Emergency Vet. We were told that the infection probably had not breached the abdominal wall, but that the puppy needed a strictly administered medication treatment if he was to survive. We left the Emergency Vet clinic at 3 am with a hope that he would live. Of course, Ozzie not only survived, but he thrived. He became one of the puppies we kept because he touched my heart with his strong will to live and his zest for life. His full name is Marley's Osweald Winterdance. His English name: "Osweald" means strength, and Winterdance reflects his zest for living life to its fullest.

Continued on next column

Ozzie has grown into a wonderful Golden Retriever who loves to interact with people, and also truly loves just being a dog. He earned his Canine Good Citizen Title at 7 months of age and went on to earn his Therapy Dog Incorporated Title when he was a year and 5 months old. He has been working in volunteer public services with me ever since he turned two years of age in 2006.

He has worked with me at the following places:

- New Lenox Library: "Reading Program for Children". The children would be able to cuddle up next to him while they read their favorite story book to him.
- Mokena Library: "Wonder Dog" program. The children would interact with Ozzie while I would tell them stories about dogs and how to properly treat animals.
- Lemont: Children's Summer Safety Program. The children had several different public safety activities, one of which was "How to Approach a Dog". Ozzie was a very willing participant. His CGC "meet and greet a stranger" exercise was used.
- Orland Park: Peace Memorial Retirement Home. Ozzie did therapy work there. He showed them dog tricks he knew while they played with him.
- Orland Park: Alden's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Ozzie greeted and met with residents. They reminisced about dogs they had and he would help divert their attention from their own problems of the day.
- Orland Park: Autumn Leaves Alzheimer's Home. Ozzie would meet and greet residents while we visited in a group activity.
- Palos Park: Manor Care Rehabilitation Center. Ozzie would do Dog Therapy visits and even participate with residents in the physical therapy room.
- Palos Heights: Palos Community Hospital "Wags Program". Ozzie and I are a part of the Palos Community Hospital volunteer staff. We had to pass a very intensive 3 day 24 hour Therapy Dog testing evaluation class in order to be accepted into their Wags program. We both wear Hospital Photo ID's as we do our "rounds" visiting with patients. This has been a very rewarding program for us.

I have learned a lot of things from my volunteer work. These activities have enriched my life in many ways. I have learned even more about life from working in volunteer activities with my dogs.

Dogs do not care about how people look or how they dress. They do not care whether they are in a wheel chair or in a bed with tubes and wires coming out of them. Dogs do not care about any of that stuff. They care about the inner self. One day Ozzie and I saw over 15 patients. That is a lot to ask of any one dog. Ozzie was a star as usual. When we got home I told my husband about how good Ozzie was "at work". He gave Ozzie a longer than usual hug, and Ozzie seemed to give it right back to him.

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Lottie and Ozzie's Biography, continued

With a look in his eyes that conveyed all that he had seen this day, like an "Old Salt" telling stories of his adventures, Ozzie was saying to my husband: "It's all in a day's work." As seen from a different view of the world as we know it, where listening is more important than talking. This is a great lesson of life that I have learned from Ozzie. We need to worry less about what we teach our dogs and more about what we can learn from them. I am trying to learn more about unconditional love and universal acceptance from my dog, Ozzie.

Lottie Johnson



Sunshine Notes:

Please remember to call our "Sunshine Person" if you know of someone who is 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 and she will arrange flowers, cards, and other forms of "sunshine" to brighten their day.

ADVERTISING POLICY

It is the responsibility of all advertisers in "Golden Moments" to ensure the accuracy of all references made to official field/obedience/show and other wins and awards. Challenges to the factual correctness of a particular advertisement may be addressed to the Board of Directors of GRCI. GRCI will only investigate complaints that include the name of the author. Any necessary corrections will be published in "Golden Moments"

Rates are as follows:

- Full Page \$20/members \$30/non-members
- Half Page \$15/members \$25/non-members
- Business Card \$10/members \$20/non-members

Rates are based on camera-ready art. Litter listings must indicate appropriate clearances for sire and dam.

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GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER POLICY

"Golden Moments" will not publish any article or letter of comment that is in disagreement with the policy or procedures of the AKC.

Articles carried will be such that they are of an informative or educational nature or general interest.

Letters to the editor will be published that do not criticize any member of the club, his/her dogs or kennel, or the judging of any dog, but that are of general interest to the members. Letters that are acceptable must indicate the name of the author. "Golden Moments" invited diverse opinions from the members of the club. Anyone wishing to comment on a particular issue may do so. However, remarks which stray from a particular issue, make negative comments on members as individuals or in groups, or attack a member's character or personality are not in good taste, do not benefit Golden Retrievers, and will not be accepted.

For a copy of the **GRCA Code of Ethics** go to: www.grca.org/pdf/all_about/codeofethics.pdf

Golden Moments

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TO:



Next Meeting: October 17, 2012 at 7:00 PM