

The Gun Dog Supreme

NEWS BULLETIN of the WIREHAired POINTING GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA
EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

<http://www.gundogsupreme.org>

December 2013

Volume 88, Number 6

December 2013

This Issue in Commemoration of

Josef J Nadeker

July 31, 1920—November 20, 2013



Copyright © 2013 Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education and Research Foundation. No part may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education and Research Foundation.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

With this issue, the WPGCA remembers one of the long-time pillars of our organization, Josef "Joe" Nadeker, who brought to us a rich and deep knowledge of European versatile gun dogs, breeding and training. Joan Bailey shares a few of her recollections of dog testing and time afield with Joe.

As we remember the contributions of one of our distinguished leaders, we also celebrate the promise of a new litter of WPGCA bred pups, the Wolf Fork Canyon B litter, raised by Randy and Myra Mann. New owners share the fun and frustrations of raising their future bird dogs.

We've also included some important technical material on feeding your pup and information about an important upcoming webinar with the Cornell University DNA database project.

Sorry to end this with a cold nose on your elbow, but don't forget that it's time for everyone to renew their WPGCA membership. Details are on the back page.

Life is better with a griffon in it.

Rem DeJong

On the Cover:

As a senior judge, Breeding Committee member and club officer, Joe Nadeker played a central role in building the WPGCA and our field testing program. Here Joe poses on a 1995 Montana hunt.

(Photo by Joan Bailey)

For information requests or to join the WPGCA please email Robin at:

rstrathy@q.com

EDITORS

Rem DeJong
John Pitlo

SUBSCR./BACK ISSUES

Printed bi-monthly, the GDS is included with a membership to the WPGCA. Subscriptions are \$40.00/year and due at the start of each year. Subscriptions and requests for back issues should be sent to:

Judy Coil
49625 Waldo Rd NE
Kelliher MN 56650
Ph (218) 647-8451
jcoil@paulbunyan.net

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Send articles or proposals 1 month prior to the issues printing to:

Rem DeJong
809 West Kaye Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855

Ph: (906) 228-6475 (EST)
e-mail: crdejong@charter.net

Word document via email preferred.

PHOTO SUBMISSION

All photos should be sent to:

Rem DeJong
809 West Kaye Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
Ph: 906-228-6475(EST)

Email: crdejong@charter.net for photo submission instructions. Include the name of the dog and owner, and who took the photo. Digital photos are required; use large file size settings. If scanned use 300dpi (grayscale). You can email them or mail on a disk/CD.

WEBSITES

E&R Foundation:
<http://huntersgriffon.org/>

Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club:
www.wpgca.org

Find Us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/griffon.fan

OFFICERS

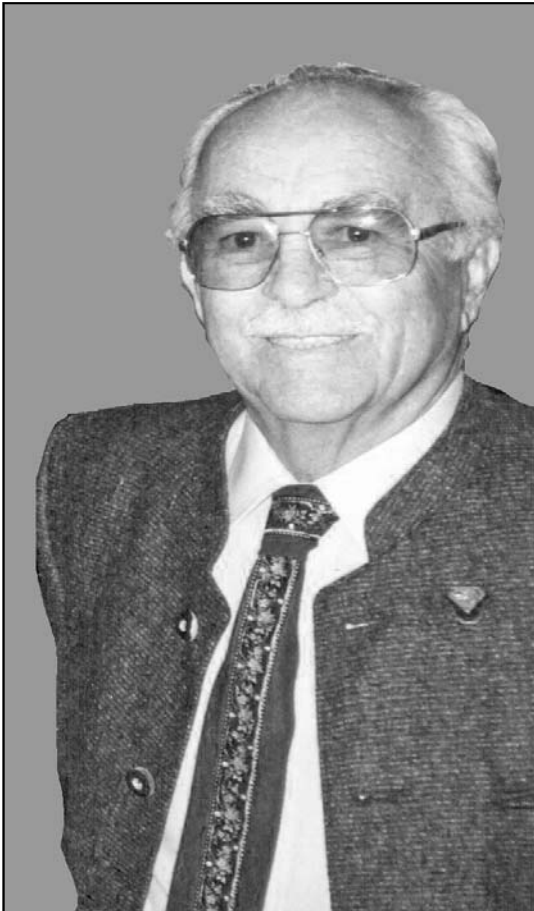
Gary Pool-President
John Pitlo-Vice President
Judy Coil- Secretary
Andy Rupp- Treasurer

DIRECTORS at LARGE

Ken Hurtig
Ted Silver
Rick Molt
Jim Seibel

“JOE”

by
Joan Bailey



Joe Nadeker wearing traditional European jacket and tie.

More than just fashion, Joe brought the spirit and values of the Old World versatile hunting dog model to NAVHDA and the WPGCA through his leadership as a judge and breeding expert.

(Photo by Joan Bailey)

The picture is still clear and sharp of the day I met Joe. It was at the first NAVHDA test in California, put on and hosted by the Sierra Griffon Club in March 1973.

As a part of the newly formed North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA), I was in charge of Promotion. In fact I was “Director of Promotion.” Wearing that hat, with help from Ed Bailey, we contacted Dave Duffy who was the gun dog editor of F&S. He came to Ontario and took a look at what our small group was doing. We had a training day for folks getting their dogs ready for a Utility Field Test (UFT). Duffy thought we were nuts; that dogs couldn’t track in water. Huh! He saw a GSP do it that day and he was sold.

Duffy wrote about NAVHDA; Joe read the article. He told me later, that he had felt so lost since coming to the US, as far as hunting and the kinds of hunting dogs he had been used to in Europe. When he read about NAVHDA he said he had hope again. I wrote back of course, and sent him the flyer for the upcoming test in his home state. He entered his young Vizsla in NAT.

So on that day in California, at the pond for the water work, when I saw a gentleman dressed in European hunting clothes walking toward the pond with a rust-colored Vizsla, I

knew this was Mr. Nadeker. I introduced myself; we shook hands and my life, and the Griffon club, was changed forever.



Joe evaluates AXA OD PASTEJRIKU, one of our first Fousek imports from the Czech Republic..

Joe Nadeker played a key role in the WPGCA's importing of the Fousek. As a knowledgeable expert on versatile hunting dogs, Joe served on the Breeding Committee and was instrumental in shaping the testing program that we use today.

(Photo by Joan Bailey)

The letters started going back and forth from the West coast to the East. In those days you didn't use long distance phone calls very much, but eventually that started too. Also, out of that test, a new chapter for NAVHDA (California) was started and Joe was the first president. He got his dog ready for UFT, qualified, and became a judge early on. Joe served in this capacity until the WPGCA broke away from NAVHDA and started its own testing program.

Joe was extremely talented in reading a dog during a test. One of many examples was a test in California. Elizabeth Mayer, from British Columbia, had brought her young dog (from our breeding program) to a test in California. Joe and I were judging in her group. The dog wasn't doing well; in fact she was sick with diarrhea. Elizabeth said the dog became sick after they arrived. There were some minutes when the dog seemed to be feeling better and would work quite well. When the field work was done, the judges were talking, and Joe said this is a young dog that has traveled a long distance and is obviously sick. Yet she has shown great talent when the illness was not affecting her. Let's judge her on the times she was feeling okay. So we did that and I think the dog got a 3 in search. She did fine in tracking and in the water. A couple of years later we used the bitch for breeding with good results. This is only one of hundreds of examples of Joe's sensitivity and knowledge that made him such a good judge.

Another example was at a KDK test in California. Judges were Joe, Dennis Carlson and me. It was an IHDT and we were at the water to start the track of the duck. Warren Webster's brother, Horace (called Web), walked up with his dog **BARTON DE LOS ALTOS**. Web told us that the dog had never seen a duck. Joe thought for about 10 seconds, turned to Dennis and me and said, "We let a duck loose while the dog watches, after duck gets out of sight, let the dog go. Not a test, just let the dog get a chance to know what he is supposed to do. Dennis and I agree. Joe grabs a duck, makes sure the dog is watching, let's the duck go. After the duck gets a good distance, he tells Web to release the dog. **BARTON** goes out, grabs the duck and brings it back to Web. Joe says, "Okay, take the dog out of sight, we release another duck; we let it get out of sight." Then Web brings **BART** back, releases him at the start. **BART** works the track fairly well, finds the duck and brings it back. We agreed that a "3" would be appropriate. And there we were; we had done the job of evaluating the dog's natural abilities, to best of our ability and we had another male to use for breeding. These are examples of Joe's insight into judging dogs.

He had great skills in figuring out how to handle the many different personalities we had to deal with, both of dog owners, and others.

He was a humble man. He advised us over and over to remember how little we really knew; all done with humor. He said, as judges, we must keep educating ourselves or else we will become pompous has-beens. Thinking back to the early years, he would remind us that we knew a lot more then than we do today.

What he did for our breed and our club is well documented in the Griffon book, so I

won't go into all that here.

He had not been well for about the past nine years, and now he is at rest. I would like to tell you about "The Last Hunt."

In 1995 Glenn and Lyla Lehrer invited Joe and Klara, and me, to come to Montana for a hunting trip. Joe and Klara drove with Joe's GSP, Bruni. I flew into Bozeman. On Thursday, Glenn Johnson (club member) who headed the music department at Montana State University brought several of his students into a small auditorium to perform German Hunting music for Joe. We sat in the auditorium and listened. These young folks were playing for Joe. And he knew it. At the end, there was a bit of moisture in his eyes, as well as ours, as the last notes of the haunting horns lingered in the air a moment.

The next day Glenn took Joe on a local hunt and they got into Huns. It was the first time Joe had shot Huns since his boyhood in the Czech Republic. He was thrilled!

The next day we took off for some of Glenn's best hunting areas due north. We headed to a particular ranch, a favorite of Glenn's and mine too. I was with Joe; Glenn and Lyla were with their dog. Joe and I were in fairly open fields with cover at the edges when two sharp tails got up. Joe shot, swung the gun and shot again. These were his first ever sharptails! Boy!

Out for steak that night. Next day we go in the opposite direction to another of Glenn's favorite places, a large ranch with good crops for birds. We split up, Glenn and Lyla go on the north side of the road with their dogs, Joe and I go on the other, where I had hunted before with Glenn, so I knew the terrain. We had to cross an old, rickety wooden bridge. Warily, I stomped on the edge. Joe says, let the dog go first to test it! We did, no cave-in. We crossed the bridge and Joe says to me, in his "Joe" accent and a big grin, "Ve go around here, get our limit and be back to the car before they are!"

These are open, golden fields, it's a crisp October, Montana day. The dog is working well out in front of us when he snaps around on a solid, classic point. Joe begins walking in from the side. He is now not far from the bird and it flushes. He nails it and the dog gets it. We continue making a slow, wide circle.

Another point, shot, bird retrieved. We walk a little more and ditto! He has his limit! We are now not far from the road so we decide to walk out to the road and go back the easier way. He has three nice roosters hanging from his game belt, and a dog by his side. I followed him down the road and was intensely aware of this man and all he meant to me through the years, as I clicked my camera.

Eventually we met up with Glenn and Lyla. They had some birds too. Glenn and Joe stood in the snow field, cleaning the birds. We were all frozen, but happy. Tired dogs, tired hunters. As Glenn said the other day, when he and I were remembering that hunting trip; Joe hit a grand slam: Huns, sharptails, and his limit of pheasants.

We were all so fortunate to have had Joe with us those many years. He taught us more than we realize. As I've written before, lucky was the apprentice judge who could spend a day in the field with Joe.

Good-bye Joe. Rest in Peace



The End of a Memorable Hunt

Joe and his German Shorthair Pointer amble down the road with full game belt and a deep satisfaction shared only by a hunter and his dog.

(Photo by Joan Bailey)

Wolf Fork Canyon B Litter Progress Report

The Wolf Fork Canyon B litter was whelped May 15, 2013. The litter of ten pups was sired by CrownPoint Wykeham Lad owned by Vicky Foster; the dam is Akay of the Midnight Sun, owned by Randy and Myra Mann. I asked puppy owners to email me an update plus photos in late November, when the pups were about six months old. I gave them a list of general questions about personality, hunting experience and health. Nine owners responded. Overall, these pups show a great deal of promise. There's only room for a few photos, but you can view many more in color on our Smug-Mug site:

<http://wpgca.smugmug.com/organize/WPGCA-Puppies/Pups/Wolf-Fork-Canyon-B>

Becasse "Cassie" (Andy Goode)



Andy Goode and Cassie stopped hunting long enough to snap this photo of one of Cassie's first woodcock.

Pup's personality—She has got a very good personality. She can combine timid, bold, and independent all in the same day but overall a more outgoing, warm personality than previous griffon. Cassie is very good around family and young children. She has developed loud barking at anybody coming in yard and at unexpected noises, but nothing out of ordinary. Plays very well with other dogs and doesn't back down.

Pup's hunting related behavior—She has had a

lot of exposure this summer in all situations and a lot of time hunting this fall. She is reliably pointing woodcock and about 50% of the grouse which I am happy about. I have been hunting her solo with no other gun this first season and we are becoming good team. Trained her with a cap pistol this summer and she has been fine with me shooting birds over her. She mostly wants to mouth the birds but did retrieve one recently and I haven't really worked with her on retrieving in the field yet. She swam four or five times over her head this summer with me and my son but after a couple of months off she has been reluctant to go back in recently. She will wade up to her chest. I am working on this although water is already freezing up in Maine. Overall, I'm very happy with her progress. Between work and family life is hectic but I have probably had her out 12 days hunting upland. I probably will wait on duck until year 2 and I have had a chance to work with her in a more controlled situation. She appears to have a really, really good nose.

My wife was not particularly fond of our last dog (**Brisby of Alderbrook**) as she entered the picture after I had owned the dog for 6 years, and the dog never really accepted her. My wife loves Cassie, who is a real snuggler. It has been hard to train her not to jump up on us, and she seems to have a weak bladder so there is a need to get her outside a lot, but overall, it has been a great experience. On most things she is a very quick learner. There is nothing better than watching a young griffon develop. I expect her to continue to develop and be everything you could want in a dog.

Andrew Goode

Beckett (Ben and Emily Berka)

Beckett continues to grow fast, is FULL of energy and has been perfectly healthy so far!



Five month old Beckett totes in a snow goose. Quite a load for this little girl!

She's adjusted well to her new home and loves to pester her "big sister" Rien (our 11 year old Griff). Overall she has as bold a personality as I've seen in a club griffon, with a lot of drive, but she is pretty even tempered to where she seems to be able to settle down (okay, as much as a 7 month puppy can "settle down") when necessary. She's good with our 4 and 8 year old boys although we have adopted a "closed door" policy for all bedrooms and bathrooms to prevent EVERYTHING from being carried and scattered throughout the house. For as bold as she is, she will still occasionally piddle on the floor when strangers or new people come to the house or come to greet her (on our first duck hunt she was startled when I started the boat engine and piddled.....all over my gun case!!). I'm sure she'll outgrow that and she is fully housebroken now.

For the most part Beckett is cooperative and wants to be close when hunting although we still need to do some work on

the "come" command (she still likes to do that on her own terms most of the time). Once Beckett got home we were experiencing a pretty hot July and August in Iowa. We did lots of water exposure at the local river and pond. "Big Sis" was helpful in making swimming easy and fun; Beckett really enjoyed retrieving bumpers from the water.

Beckett traveled north to SK, Canada the first week of October for the bi-annual hunt we do for ducks and geese mixed in with some upland bird hunting. Unfortunately the partridge were non-existent this year due to a tough winter last year. Beckett did however get good exposure to hunting in the woods and lots of good exposure to dead game.

She didn't get out on any of the duck and goose hunts as I wasn't fully comfortable with the gun sensitivity exposure at that point. Gun sensitivity has not been an issue, especially when she sees there is a bird involved. At other times when she has not seen the bird, she has looked at me and let out a little whimper but then gets right back to business of hunting.

Since Canada, Beckett has been on a few pheasant hunts and a couple of duck hunts. Surprisingly, we've been able to find some pheasants despite record low bird numbers in Iowa. We have yet to get the "textbook" point and retrieve but she has demonstrated all of the fundamentals independently (had an awesome point on a HEN) with the exception of retrieving a freshly shot bird. The opportunities she has had to retrieve so far have been wild-flushed birds, two of which were crippled and very much alive where she did a nice job tracking then pinned the bird so it didn't get away, and the other was shot and killed where she got downwind and had a very nice point. After some "good girls" and encouragement she moved in on the bird, pulled a few feathers but was not interested in picking it up. I'm hopeful this will continue to develop with more experience. Stamina-wise for upland hunting I have yet to wear her out doing 1/2 day hunts. I've not yet shot any ducks over her but she is pretty well mannered in the duck boat and travels well around the marsh. We're looking at possible freeze up in the next few days so not sure how much more water exposure we'll get this season. Overall, our family loves Beckett very much, and she's become a nice addition to the family.

Ben and Emily Berka
Huxley, Iowa

Bambino (Zeb Breukman)



Bambino "Bam" obliges for a photo with an impressive bag of chukar partridge

Bambino is quite a character. He's fully furnished, looks tri-colored right now, with light grey, light brown and dark brown all showing. His hair is pretty fine right now, but is getting harsher as he gets older. If I had to describe him in one word it would be tenacious! Do not try to sweep the room or do the laundry with him in the house. He loves chasing the broom and eating socks. If I get a video camera for Christmas his broom chasing will be the subject of a hit YouTube video for sure.

We got Bam out swimming with the big dog (**Benny of the Midnight Sun**, 4 years old) soon after he arrived. I'm hoping to get him out on his first duck hunt in the next few weeks. We have been doing a lot of chukar hunting,

and Bam has learned to range out and cover the open ground nicely. In the field Bam loves to point, which keeps things interesting. I am getting a little better at picking out the false alarms, although one of the "false alarm" points last weekend turned out to be a bedded coyote!

Bam had a few birds shot over his points in October, including two that he and Benny pointed together, which was very neat to see. This last Friday I was planning on doing a short hunt with Bam before taking Benny out in the afternoon. We started finding birds, Bam was pointing them and I was hitting them (for once). Bam had lots of chances to find birds, as they were flushing wild sometimes and holding for points on others. It was really fun to watch Bam try to handle running chukar without busting them. We ended up with a limit of 6 chukars, 4 of which were shot over points, and all of which were retrieved by Bam!

Zeb Breuckman

Shoreline, Washington

BLucy (Les and Annette Noehre)

First and foremost Annette and I must thank Randy and Myra for the huge commitment of having a litter and taking such wonderful care of the pups! Plus, we must also thank Robin Strathy for arranging the flight to bring B'Lucy to us, and for taking her to an exposure day in the process. As new members to the club we very quickly experienced the dedication to the breed and a warm welcome into the "family."

First our puppies name, B'Lucy. Several months before knowing which litter we might get a puppy from our two grandchildren selected the name Lucy. As in Lucy of Narnia. Try as we might we could not get them to even consider a different name. We thought they might forget over time, but of course they didn't. We thought generating excitement with other names may change their minds, it didn't. In the end it came down to having a unique name or disappointing our grandchildren. As you can see we chose not to disappoint them.

It had been eight years since we had a puppy in the house and the happy times with our adult dog had erased all the memories of the trials of having a pup. The piddle, getting up several times a night, SHARP teeth, under foot constantly, and all the rest. But coupled with the joys of seeing B'Lucy grow, learn, and becoming an inseparable part of our family is also making those earlier challenges diminish quickly. B'Lucy is a fantastic dog and we are very pleased to have her.

B'Lucy loves children, and children love her. She plays nonstop with our grandchildren when they visit, she sits by the fence for hours when our neighbors children are outside, and already knows what times the neighborhood school children come by the house. I wouldn't say B'Lucy is timid, but she doesn't jump headlong into something new. She will stop and study it, try to figure it out, looks for encouragement, then just does it. When she sees something new on a walk or in the field she will stop, adjust her position several times to get various views of it, looks to me or Annette for direction, and then accepts whatever it is. Her first pheasant point and retrieve are a good example. She was

bounding through the field sniffing and tasting everything in site until she came across some pheasant sent. She got birdie, looked at me for confirmation and direction, and when she received my praise she continued to look for the bird. I think she was as surprised as we were when she wheeled around 180 degrees and froze in a beautiful point. After the shot she wasn't too sure what to do so I ran to the downed bird with B'Lucy hot on my heels. I picked the bird up but she wanted it desperately so I handed it to her and she ran back to Annette and dropped it in her hand. She was hooked from that moment on. She still has a blast running through the fields, but now she has more of a purpose to her playfulness. When Annette started hunting with me several years ago she taught me how to enjoy the hunt more and not just think about getting a "full bag." Therefore I'm pleased to see that our puppy knows how to have a little fun and still work at the same time.

B'Lucy's coat is long with plenty of furnishings which were very soft at first, but are now getting coarser. There haven't been any health issues and our Vet is very pleased with her growth, along with having her as a client. Her first visit took more than an hour as he examined her, talked nonstop about how much he liked her and hoped she would have a litter. B'Lucy likes to play fetch yet only for a short time. She'll bring back a practice limit of birds for Annette and I but after that will lose interest and wants to play another game. We aren't worried though as she is plenty excited to retrieve birds in the field. Today was her first retrieve of a bird that wasn't yet dead and again she was a little unsure of what to do with it when delivering it to hand. She would drop it, hold it down, pick it up, drop it again. With some coaching she did eventually bring it all the way back to us. She certainly isn't gun shy. After spending many weeks with us on the sporting clays course and three hunting trips she gets excited when the shotguns come out.

Overall we are very pleased with B'Lucy of Wolf Fork Canyon and the WPG breed. This is the first pointing dog we have owned and to be honest I don't think we'll be without one again. She is a good family dog, excellent hunter, has a gentle temperament, trains easily, and is a smart, good looking animal.

Les and Annette Noehre
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Bolt (Phil Lukish)

I had the opportunity to dog sit at the Mann's residence back in July. This afforded me the chance to observe the puppies on a first-hand environment. I got to know the trouble makers in the litter and the ones that were more congenial. I like the trouble makers. Bolt wasn't one of those. He appeared a little soft! He was one of the larger pups in the pack, which was another aspect that I didn't like. I prefer a smaller size dog. Randy had picked Bolt to match the information I had sent him. I liked Bolt's confirmation and his coat seem fair to me. His coat is a little soft, especially around his head. He moves well in the field and looks somewhat like his sire (Lad). After chasing puppies around for a few days, I decided that maybe being a little soft wasn't a bad thing.

When Bolt arrived at my home in Pennsylvania, he was introduced to my other two griffons. Bart, my 6 year old and he got along well. Christy, my 9 year old put up with him,

but got along fairly well. Bolt reacts well with other dogs, which is great. Bolt was the easiest dog I ever had for introducing to water. On the second trip to my pond, he was out swimming, fetching sticks and chasing Bart. The down-side, however, was that he was the worst pup I ever had in terms of house breaking. I introduced him to loud noises early with nothing but positive reaction from him. On the negative side, I observed that he eats anything, including small rocks!

At the end of Sept. it was time for the annual trip out west. I decide to hunt Minnesota in the hope of getting into woodcock, which would help Bolt with some wild birds. I arrived in Minn. but the woodcock didn't. Bolt did get a lot of exposure to the woods including getting lost one day. He loved the dead grouse and a few woodcocks that the other dogs found. At this time I still didn't have a good point. We entered North Dakota in October and he finally had his first solid point. It turned out to be a porcupine as large as he is!. He didn't grab it but remained on point, barking. He likes to bark; especially if he can't find me, he will bark. He gets out in front of me but checks back pretty frequently. That is the soft part of him, but once he gets into birds more, he will get over that. (I hope) He has a strong retrieving instinct, and yesterday found a dead pheasant which he brought back to me.

This is the worst year that I can remember in Pennsylvania for woodcock. I can't find any, but Bolt did have a good point on a ringneck, which we harvested.

Bottom line—Randy made a good choice, and I was fortunate to listen to him. Hopefully the quail in New Mexico and Arizona will help Bolt along with his quest for Gun Dog Supreme.

Phil Lukish, PA.

Briar (Dave and Jeanne Read)

Well, it has been a exciting fall with our new pup Briar. It has been really fun watching him progress, grow and learn along the way. Briar seems to have fun at anything he is doing—running off with anything that you are carrying or that's not bolted down. He really loves to play with other dogs and loves to chase and be chased around. We have had a very interesting fall hunting season. He has really hunted very well for a young dog/puppy. I really love to watch him hunt and can see him learning from every new experience. Briar really seems to learn very quickly, and he moves through the woods and fields very nicely.

We got to spend some time hunting woodcock and grouse in the U.P. and northern Lower Peninsula Michigan. He really likes pointing woodcock and did very well on grouse for a young dog. Briar has never shown any gun sensitivity issues at all. I'm hoping that there is no snow after deer season so we can get into the woods looking for grouse in December. He is not afraid to range out and look for game in the woods or in the field. We just got back from North Dakota from our goose ,duck and pheasant trip. It was pretty cold out there, so the shallow water was frozen most of the time. Briar did retrieve a widgeon from the shallow water. He did really well in the field blind with me and was exposed to a lot of field ducks and snow geese. Briar was a little reluctant to pick up the big flight duck mallards and snow geese; he didn't want to open his mouth that wide. He was getting his new teeth while we were out there, so I am sure that didn't help any. He

liked to pull feathers out or drag the large birds around rather than retrieve, but this will improve with time. In pheasant hunting, he did really well in searching in cover, tracking and pointing.

Around home, he loves to play fetch with anything I throw—balls, Frisbee, his duck doken, dummies, sticks etc. We need to work on the retrieving of birds in the water and land, but we have allot of time, and he's definitely too young for serious retrieving training now. Briar has had no health issues at all, and loves to eat. His coat is coming along nicely, and he has full furnishing's on his head. We couldn't be happier with him.

Dave and Jeanne Read

Brillo (Robin Strathy)

Brillo is growing by leaps and bounds...even I can see it! She's a skinny one, about 41 pounds now, but getting long and lanky. I think she'll be a good-sized dog! Randy Mann had related his difficulty in keeping the pups in their enclosed area and having to increase the height of the wire paneling because pup(s) were climbing out....I think I know who the culprit was!! She can reach up and grab things off counters or high places...even when I think I have them well out of reach. And of course I can never catch her at it; she's very sneaky and quick! She doesn't (usually) destroy things, just likes the attention when you get it from her. Her nickname is "Doodles" and she wiggles from head to tail when excited. I have a side business, a little store on my property. Brillo greets customers and they all love her and want to take her home. So she's not uneasy around strangers at all. They can't believe she's only a puppy; she has a very mellow temperament and seems to know when to calm down. She gets along well with every dog she's been exposed to. She knows when to be submissive, when she can rip and snort in play, and is great around tiny dogs that she could squish under her big paws!

I had to take care in introducing my first griffon to gunfire, but Brillo wasn't fazed at all. We've hunted since the season opened and it was fun to watch the light bulb go on. She points well (field larks, tweeties, and mice included) and tackles all types of cover. Of course, I've had to set the example, so I've tackled my fair share of nasty cover, too! I'm hoping I can leave that up to her soon! I'm fortunate to have access to woods and fields around me and live a skip and a jump from the Missouri River. I took her to the river quite a bit and was able to get her to swim after me as I waded in the shallows along the bank. Actually, she was trying to climb up my backside, but still, she was swimming! However, she's not interested at all in going in after a bumper and even coaxing with dead birds doesn't guarantee her feet will leave the bottom. So I have to say I'm already a little nervous about the "affinity for water" part of the NAT! Especially if it's at all cold. Better bring my waders..... And I can't say I've done a lot of formal training. I took her through obedience training, mostly for the socialization and to instill cooperation. I keep a stash of frozen birds in the freezer for tracking, retrieving training, etc., but mostly have just wanted to get her real life exposure to birds.

**I know you shot it, but that's my bird too!**

Brillo keeps a close eye on her first sharptail with owner Robin Strathy. Should be lots more to come!

Her coat started out pretty thin...open on chest and ears and quite soft. It's filled out, but it's still a bit soft and I have to have a comb on hand to get burrs out, especially from her chest and face, while hunting. I have not tried stripping her coat, although I've been told that can help bring a harsher coat in. Has anyone else tried that? She's had encounters with several porcupines and has never gotten quilled...she moves away when I call her. She also chased a raccoon that jumped out of one of my trees when I let her out to pee in the middle of the night. I went running and calling after her (in my PJ's...good thing I don't have neighbors!), in the pitch dark. I heard howling crying and was pretty frantic, knowing those raccoons can be nasty, but she just came tearing back to the house, shaken but unscathed. I think the coon stood up to her. Hopefully a lesson learned. Her stamina seems good, although she does seem to poop out in the heat (so do I!!). But she's been able to hunt long days since we started. No health issues of note.

She's an easy keeper, that's for sure, and I adore her!

Robin Strathy
Great Falls, Montana

Bo (Bryan and Sue Rowder)

Bo is relaxed, usually quiet, barks and growls about unknown movements and noises and is appropriately cautious about strangers. He's at ease around family and friends, loves to play with his two relatives. Bo is independent enough, but wants to please more than be independent.

As for hunting, he has not been out as much as I would like; mainly due to my health



issue curtailing hunting time. He fell in the 500 gallon fish pond this summer and swam well; he fell/jumped into a lake from my small boat in Aug; swam back to the boat side and dove under and came up on the other side. His instinct was to get out of the boat to pee, as he peed in the boat after I lifted him back in. Bo showed no fear of boating. We also went boating in a bigger lake using a motor boat and taking him for a swim with us when we landed for a picnic.

Bo found the goose I dropped on land but considered it too big to pick up then. Because pheasants are scarce and smart, I hunted pen raised/planted birds with him on two occasions. He showed good hunting ability and made short points; he retrieved all five birds shot, right to hand!! He is very interested in all birds, and looks around even more intently whenever a shot occurs. Has not seen a vet yet, and is staying healthy with only a few episodes of diarrhea, constipation, throwing up things he erroneously test ate.

Bo has a good physique, with an estimated weight of about 45 pounds but still growing. His coat is long and collects burrs like Warren Buffett collects dollars. He is slowly developing ability to use steps, and is not jumping into the pickup bed yet. Gentle with kids. In general, he is excellent!

Bryan

Brew (Pat Rupar)

We are fortunate to have "Brew" our male from the Wolf Fork Canyon B litter. First

and foremost he is so loving. He still wants to curl up in anyone's lap when they sit on the floor. As with the other writings about this litter Brew has an affinity to wanting to chew everything. The first few outings in the woods Brew always found tree branches more exciting than birds. That changed quickly once the switch was turned on. I have become buddies with a guy who owns property along the John Day River in Eastern Oregon, only a two hour trip from Bend. Brew has been blowing me away with his natural abilities so far. Points, tracks, and works an area like an elder. Fetching and obeying commands--that will come in due time. I am accustomed to hunting duck in the marshes of Wisconsin with decoys. Here, we hike the irrigation canals and sneak attack the ducks. Brew loves this; so far, I keep him on the leash until we are within shooting range of the puddles. He creeps up on the puddle and then attacks. At first this made me wonder if he would do the same on chukar, but no more worries. On the next outing, he pointed and held very well for me. (I am jealous of all of yo that have photographic prowess, my photos unless taken by another person are etched into my brain. Please keep the photos coming, I will just have to schedule a hunt with Rem to have photos with Brew.)

Rambunctious, cautious, loving and bold are all good descriptions for Brew. A funny combination. Each depends upon his surroundings. His coat is very soft, awesome furnishings, good belly coverage. He has no known medical issues.

Brew is able to switch gears from being an eager hunter to going to dog park and just hanging with our family and friends. At the dog park, Brew likes to tease the little dogs and wrestle the big dogs. This lets him get his sillys out each day. I like to work with Brew after our dog park trips because he seems much more focused and willing to learn after a little exercise. The pittle thing occurs when Brew gets excited about something new or a family member coming home after a sleep over. My wife and children love Brew for the fact that he is so loving and relaxed around the house.

As I said before we even had Brew home... This may be the best gun dog I ever own. Many thanks to Myra and Randy. The Puppy pod was awesome! I am interested in finding someone to pay our bills so I can spend the whole fall with Brew and the kids chasing birds around. If you know anyone that is interested in sponsoring us please contact me immediately.

DFTBA, ("don't forget to be awesome.")
Pat Rupar and Family



Update on Cira and Eider

by
Rick Sojda and Hy Adelman

In a small attempt to increase the genetic diversity available to the WPGCA, two Cesky Fousek pups were imported from the Czech Republic this summer with guidance from the breeding committee (See article in last GDS). Of course, what we as owners see at seven and eight months is only subjective observation. The need, identical to any of our dogs, is to have others examine them more objectively at tests over the next two years. Here are our impressions so far.



Barclay of Midnight Sun (L), Cira od Aliny z Nehvizd (R), and Hiram Adelman with Cira's first retrieve on a grey partridge.

(photo: Brook Merrow)

A female, **Cira od Aliny z Nehvizd**, was born in April 2013 and is owned by Hiram Adelman and Brook Merrow of Bozeman, MT. Cira has been loveable, strong, and independent from the start. She seems to have a good nose and has already pointed ring-necked pheasants and wild turkeys. She is not afraid of ranging-out in short cover and has lots of potential as a grassland bird dog. Cira and Hy are both looking forward to more hunting this season, and the next pheasant trip in a couple weeks should allow the

needed repetitive exposure on birds. Recently, she was hunting with **Barclay of the Midnight Sun**, and was the one who just wouldn't give up looking for a crippled hun, and who finally nailed it, and then made the retrieve. She loves the water, swims like a fish, and has a young coat that serves her well both in in the water and snow. Cira had a recurrent urinary tract infection as a pup, but seems to have now outgrown that.

The second dog is a male born in March 2013 and is owned by Rick and Mary Ann Sojda, also of Bozeman. The pup's call name is **Eider**, and his registered name is **Edy z Veseckych lulu**. He has shown strong pointing instinct since 4 1/2 months. He seems quite cooperative as evidenced by his repetitive pointing and relocating when tracking running pheasants, typically waiting for the handler to catch up. As he gets older, Eider is using air scent more frequently and relying less on ground scent when searching. His search is close and always seems thorough, with a current range of 10-20 yards in the woods and 50 in the short prairie. Third gear seems reserved for retrieving, and he has retrieved 15 birds shot over points and two ducks, so far. He has pointed grey partridge, sharp-tailed grouse, ring-necked pheasants, blue grouse, and ruffed grouse. Although he seems to really love the water, he has only occasionally been an active swimmer with all four feet off the bottom. He handles snow and cold weather with ease, having hunted at 5 degrees with no problem. Eider has had no medical issues and was roughly 24 inches square and 55 pounds at eight months of age.



Eider (Edy z Veseckych lulu) retrieving a Northern shoveler at 8 ½ months of age. Eider is owned by Rick Sojda.

(Photo: Dave Bowen).

FEEDING YOUR NEW PUP RECOMMENDED BY THE WPGCA BREEDING COMMITTEE

**by
Jim Seibel**

The nutritional needs of your pup are critical to the optimal development of his/her structure. Dog food companies and veterinary colleges are constantly updating the formulas of puppy food to address the needs of specific breeds. It is now well known that the needs of pups that grow to different adult sizes are not the same. After consulting with people knowledgeable of the needs of pups that grow up to be Griffons, the following recommendations apply to your pup.

A puppy food that contains the critical mineral nutrients needed for proper bone and tissue development is essential. A protein/fat ratio of 28/18 is correct for your pup. One good example is Purina Pro Plan Focus Puppy Formula. We believe that this formula is well balanced for controlled growth throughout the time your Griffon pup is developing his/her adult structure. Most pups continue to grow until at least 18 months. That means that the need for a dog food formulated for proper growth is essential throughout this period. We recommend that you feed a good puppy food such as Pro Plan Focus Puppy Formula until the pup is finished growing or at least 18 months old and possibly even to 24 months of age.

We cannot emphasize enough how **CRITICAL** it is to understand that the difference between good feeding and bad feeding is the attention an owner gives to body condition throughout those first twelve months. Growth rate is always changing, that much we know for sure and, as a consequence, our feeding should mirror that. The pup should be neither too fat nor too thin. A good rule for pups and adult dogs is to be able to feel the ribs but not see the ribs. Over-weight pups tend to have more structural problems than either lean or correct weight pups.

This information represents the best of what formulators are recommending at this time. This is significantly different from what has been recommended in the past where the pup was changed to an adult formula at four months of age. The logic was that "rich" formulas contributed to rapid bone growth and as a result, structural problems such as OCD. The current thinking is that the correct protein/fat ratio for pups is 28/18. Equally important is the essential mineral content and the calcium/phosphorus balance. This may not be and will not be the last word on feeding pups, however the above does represent the current research findings. Stay tuned.







**NATIONAL PHEASANT FEST
& Quail Classic Hunting Expo**
February 14, 15 & 16, 2014
Wisconsin Center • Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- Attendees
- Seminars
- Attractions
- Hotel Information
- Exhibitor List
- Vendors
- Pheasants Forever
- Quail Forever

**NATIONAL PHEASANT FEST
& Quail Classic**
February 14, 15 & 16, 2014
Wisconsin Center • Milwaukee, Wisconsin

PUBLIC WELCOME!



 www.pheasantfest.org  

2014 Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic

As the holiday season approaches, the 2014 Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic is right around the corner. This year our annual event will be taking place February 14, 15 & 16 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. Please join us for what is sure to be another fantastic weekend. I would like to also extend an invitation to once again participate in the annual Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic Bird Dog Parade on Friday, February 14th. For more information on the show you can visit www.PheasantFest.org. You can also go ahead and purchase your Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic tickets by visiting our Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic Events Page.

Kirk and Tracy Dilly are coordinating the WPGCA participation in Pheasant Fest. You can reach them at:

Kirk: (320) 304-2212

Tracy: (952) 240-3564

Email: kirk.dilly@mortonbuildings.com

Mike and Jane Chlapaty are the contacts for arranging WPGCA hotel reservations. Reservations must be made before 1/1/14

Jane Chlapaty cell: 708-917-9882

email: jane.chlapaty@gmail.com

The Pheasant Fest contact person is

BRIAN ESSLING | Marketing Specialist

Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever | 1783 Buerkle Circle | Saint Paul, MN 55110

p. (651) 209-4935 | f. (651) 773-5500 | bessling@pheasantsforever.org

LIVE WEBINAR SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY, ABOUT OUR WPGCA DNA PROJECT WITH CORNELL UNIVERSITY

—The Breeding Committee (John Pitlo, Jim Seibel, Laurie Connell, Ted Silver, Rick Sojda)



Dr. Doug Raines of Bozeman, MT (L) collects blood from **Bella of Salmon River** as her owner, Dennis Bays of Bellingham, WA (R), assists.

Because of the efforts of many dedicated club members and veterinarians across the country, we now have DNA from 177 of our dogs in the genetics database at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca, NY. Thank you, one and all. We are now collecting blood from entire litters before they leave the breeder to make things a bit more efficient. Then, all we need to do is measure dogs and fill out the various forms once the dogs are over a year old. The Klub Chovatelu Cesky Fousek (Bohemian Wire-haired Pointing Griffon Club) in the Czech Republic is hoping to join this effort, too. Courtesy of a grant from Pfizer Genetics, the folks at Cornell were able to actually map the DNA from twelve individuals that we selected. This is exciting, because as we get more and more individuals mapped, we should be able to begin to associate specific genes (or groups of genes) with specific traits. This is going to require some grant wiring to be able to do that level of statistical research because the actual mapping is expensive, but it is where we are heading. The following twelve dogs were selected by the breeding committee as the initial dogs to be mapped based on conditions provided by

the Cornell vets. These criteria included a lack of close genetic relationship, adherence to the WPGCA type, and a lack of known major disease.

Aerobix of Wolf Fork Canyon – Randy Hulme
Allagash of Coyote Hills – Scott Craig & Laurie Connell
Ander of Hundgaard – Richard Sojda
Andrew Phillip of Sourdough Trail – Cheri Coombe
Ashen Shugar of High Desert – Damon Bovard
Berta of Show-Me Borealis – Judith Coil
Bobbie McGee of Eagles Point – Jim McDermond
Brinker of Indian Creek - Rem DeJong
Buckeye B of Midnight Sun – Jim Crouse
Friederich of Dutchman's Hollow – Kurt Eickhof
Grailey of Auger Falls – Cliff Jaro
Merrymeeting's Bogan – Kurt Soneson

Cornell is planning to hold a live informational webinar about our program for us and our Czech colleagues, on Friday, 24 January 2014. We are sorry that we do not have a firm time just yet, so stay tuned to our web page for the announcement. We will include instructions on how to participate using a web browser over the internet then, too.

You can learn more about the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine Data Bank by visiting them on the web at: <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/research/dnabank/>

Team Effort

Quality data on dog conformation and owner provided health data are also vital to the project.

Here Senior judge, Ken Hurlig records size and conformation data for a participating griffon owner.





Versatile Gun Dogs Hunt Tiggers Too!

B'Lucy of Wolf Fork Canyon, owned by Les and Annette Noehre takes a break with a favorite toy. She'll be a big bird dog later.

(Photo by Annette Noehre)

Attention!

WPGCA membership fee is due January 1, 2014. Don't miss out on the Gun Dog Supreme and information about upcoming events such as training days and spring tests.

A Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America membership makes a great holiday or birthday gift too, and giving a membership is a great way to recruit new members.

Complete an on-line membership form on our website:

<http://www.wpgca.org/membership/>

Then mail your \$40.00 membership fee to:

ANDY RUPP, Treasurer WPGCA
9592 Kendrick Way
Arvada, CO 80007