

The Gun Dog Supreme

NEWSBULLETIN of the WIREHAIRED POINTING GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA
EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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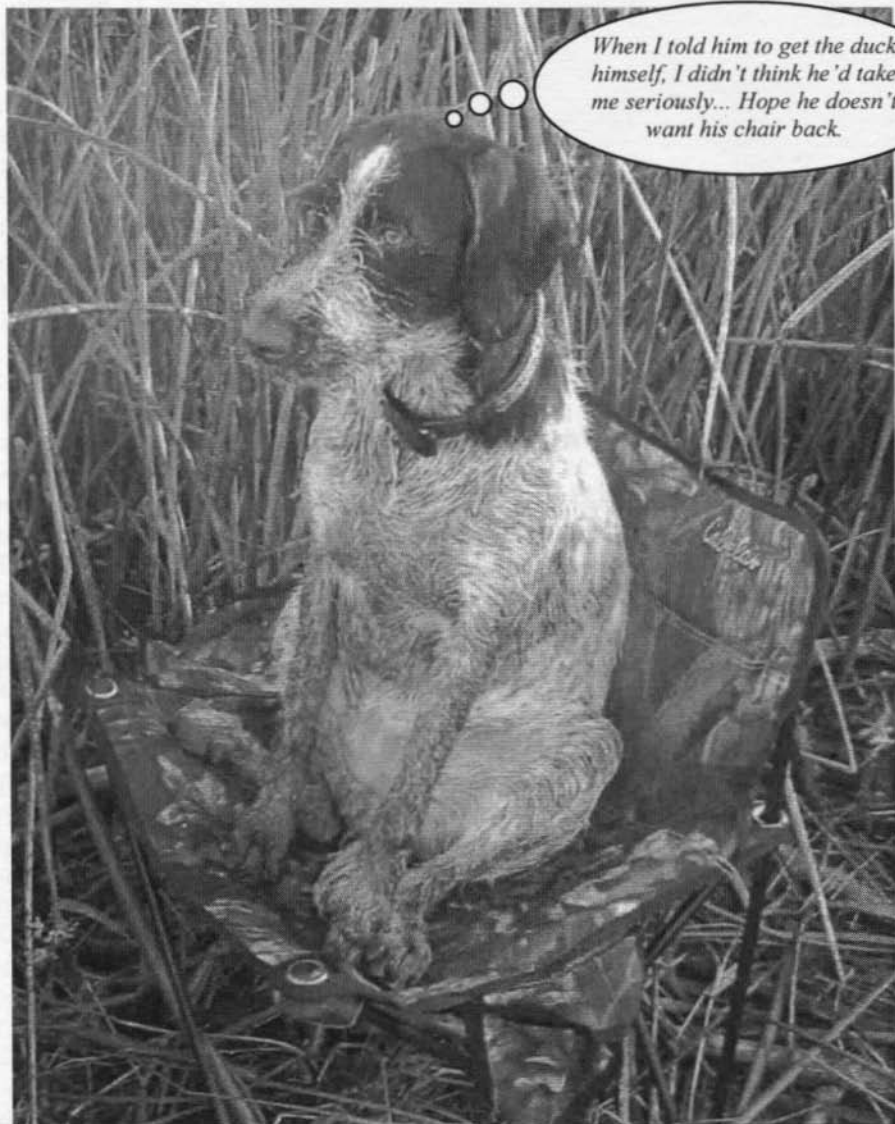
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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Wednesday, Nov. 20th—This past Sunday I took Badger and Beck out for nearly two hours of what was supposed to be grouse hunting, but ended up being just a walk in the woods. Don't get me wrong, walks are healthy and can be fun, but the dogs and I are at wits end to scare up a "timber chicken". This year we are seeing .6 grouse/hr (*A far cry from the 2.3 birds/hr. we had in 2000*). According to my calculations, we should have seen 1 bird that day, but we didn't even find that one.

Well I sure can't seem to find the birds this year, but I can still read about them and so I was happy to receive a story about fellow member Lee Wittig and Abba's grouse and woodcock hunting adventures in New York. You can read about it on the following page.

For those club members anxiously awaiting puppies you can read about planned breedings for the coming year on page 5. Rounding out this issue treasurer Jim Seibel gives us the club's financial report for 2002 on page 6.

Remember...December is membership renewal month for the 2003 season. Be sure to mail a check for **\$40.00** payable to **WPGCA**, in the enclosed envelope To:

Jim Seibel
17550 17 Mile Rd.
Marshall, MI 49068

Happy Holidays!

Mike Lockman

P.S. - don't forget to renew your membership.

SUBMISSION OF PHOTOS

We are always looking for good photos related to our Griffons and hunting. If you have photos you would like to send in remember to always include the name of dog and owner, and who took the photo. You can send images by the following options;

1. **You can mail your prints in.** Be sure to protect them with a piece of thin cardboard, like the backing from a pad. **DO NOT WRITE ON THE BACK OF THE PHOTO**; attach a sticky note.
2. **Email digital photos.** This is probably the easiest/least expensive option. It is also a bit trickier because of the resolution needed for quality printing may take up one's "inbox". Photos that are at least 1024 x 768 pixels with the object up close (*see photos on page 3 and 7 in the October GDS*) seem to work nicely.. If the object is too far away then we have to enlarge and crop the image. This requires the digital photo to be sharply focused and of such a high resolution that makes it impossible to be emailed. If this is the case then the best option would be to do #1 or #3.
3. **Mail a compact disc of your photos.**

Good photos make a good GDS. Please help. All photos should be sent to

Joe Kuzmak
E120 Military Rd
Deerton, MI 49822
Home Phone: 906-343-6653
Email: joe@up.net

COVER PHOTO: *BELLA OF VALLEY HOUSE* owns Dennis Carlson of Hood River, OR. She says, "Never spoil your duck hunter. Always assume control." (Photo by: Dennis Carlson)

Woodcock Hunting

By: Lee Wittig

My favorite time of the year is here again and Abba and I have been enjoying the woods and alder beds chasing the ever elusive woodcock and grouse. She is 7.5 years old now and in great health and handling both species very well.

Yesterday I went out alone with her and had 13 good points on Woodcock, was able to get "the gun on 4 of them" and got 2. The others disappeared in the cover before I could get off a shot. The cover is still very thick here, as well as the ground cover, as we have not had a good frost yet.

One of the woodcock

I actually saw on the ground as I walked in on her point. I didn't even get a shot at that one as it dodged behind some trees the moment it took off.

Abba is very intense on point and slows down to a crawl when she gets any scent. It is a real pleasure to be with her.

Sunday, October 6th was the first day of Woodcock season and I went out with Mark Canfield and Avery (of Mountain House). I left Abba home as she was a little lame from the day before when we went out in search of some grouse. Mark got 2 timberdoodles and 1 grouse and I missed two timber D's. After we were done with our hunt, we drove around so I could show Mark some covers he could hunt, as he is still looking for good cover. I figured it was time I passed some of my secret coverts on, and could not think of anyone else I would rather share the information with.

Funny how life works out at times. I have two sons who could care less about hunting and fishing and am delighted to know a young man like Mark who I can share those outdoor sports with.

DOUBLE - ALMOST A TRIPLE!! Saturday Abba's Beeper Collar gave out that great sound of her being on point. The cover is still very thick here in Upstate NY and I could not see her. As I slowly made my way thru the alders and brush, I stopped momentarily to ponder what was the best way to approach the place where I thought she was. Just as I made my decision and took a step, I heard that great sound of a grouse taking flight. Much to my amazement it flew right across my right flank -- 1 shot from my O/U 28 gauge and down it came. Just as it hit the ground, another grouse took off from her point, flew the same route, and the second shot rang out and down came that one too. The beeper still indicated she was holding point and much to my surprise the 3rd bird went up and followed the same path, but - no live ammo left in the gun. That sure was a first for me, three grouse off from one point



ABBA OF SHOW-ME-BOREALIS (Dan Cerniky x Brandy of Dutchman's Hollow) smiles proudly after a great day in the woods pursuing woodcock. (Photo by: lee Wittig, Fall 2000)

all flying by me offering a good shot!! I am now 70 yrs old, have been hunting grouse and woodcock for 40 years and have never had anything like that happen. What a wonderful 7 years my Abba has given me, she is by far the best bird dog and companion I have owned.

CHAPTER 2

Friday, October 18, 2002 dawned as a beautiful fall day here in upstate NY. The temp was 38 degrees and warmed up to 42 as the day went on. The sun was out and there was a slight breeze. So Frank Iurno and I left, along with Abba, my Griffon, and headed north. And what a beautiful drive it was. The sun shown off the multi-colored fall leaves that made their colors burst into bright, mixed hues of gold, reds, oranges, yellows, and greens. Truly Mother Nature is at her best dressed in her fall colors. We decided to hunt a cover that we had not visited yet this year, one I call "The Island". It is bordered on one side by a river and the other by a very small creek that you cross in a few places. It is a fairly large island, of about 75 acres.

It didn't take long once we crossed over to the Island--that familiar beep-beep of the collar on Abba told us she was already on point. We got ourselves into position--Frank on her left and me on her right. I had a nice open spot so Frank decided he would walk in for the flush. Just as the bird took to the air, flying so that Frank had a good shot, Frank stubbed his boot on a root, started to fall and shot at the same time. I had a ring-side seat to all of this and stood there watching as the bird flew away. Frank shot and fell in a big heap on the ground. The bird? I thought I heard it laughing as it flew merrily along it's way, and you can bet I was laughing. In fact, after Frank got up and regained his composure, we both stood there laughing our heads off. Abba? I don't know what she thought, most likely--"Look at those idiots, I give them a perfect point, and they miss the bird and laugh about it."

Well the rest of the day proceeded along the same lines. Abba perfect, Frank and I incompetent with one mistake and miss after another. I can not ever remember when my shooting eye was so bad. I mean I missed some "cherry" shots and so did Frank. At the end of the day the score was--Abba, 14 points--Hunters, 9 birds fired at with 9 misses (some of those were shots where we both fired at the same bird either once or twice) Ever had a day like that, Michael? A day that the birds definitely won! A day when the Gang Who Couldn't Shoot Straight" went out in the woods. And so the beat goes on--today it is raining so no hunt. Tomorrow is supposed to be a nice cool sunny day again, so watch out you birds--here we come again.

2003 Spring Hunting Test Weekends

Regional Chapter's with an asterisks next to their name are tentative dates. Those without dates have yet to be decided. Final dates will be printed in the February 2003 GDS or look at our website at www.wpgca.org

<u>Club/Chapter</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>
KDK—USA (Klub Deutsch Kurzhaar-USA)	Oroville, CA	Jan. 25 th & 26 th	Rolf Benseler (925) 376-6726 rbenseler@aol.com
Rocky Mountain Chapter*	Jerome, ID	Mar. 29 th & 30 th	Vic Jaro (208) 736-9381 vic@northrim.net
Northwest Chapter	Silver Creek WA	NA	Dennis Carlson (541) 386-4830 carlson@gorge.net
Heartland Chapter*	Baraboo, WI	Apr. 25 th -27 th & judges seminar	Jon and Judy Coil (218) 647-8451 Jcoil@paulbunyan.net
Northeast Chapter*	Desden, ME ?	May 17 th -18 th	Erik and Sarah Anderson 603-735-5827 anderson111@tds.net

Planned Breedings for the Coming Year

By: John Pitlo and Jim Seibel

By now most of you know of the poor results from the 2002 breeding efforts. Part of this was due to the disappointing results from the Artificial Insemination (AI) program. We used AI breeding on 4 females, with only one breeding being successful, resulting in 4 puppies. Because AI with Czech Fousek males is going to be an important part of our breeding program for the next several years, we decided we needed to know much more about Artificial Insemination. We, along with Ken Hurtig, spent a day in Minneapolis, MN visiting with Dr. Fran Smith (who performed the successful AI) to learn more about this breeding method. It was a learning experience for all of us and gave us some guidelines for future use. Some of the things we learned were: 1) We will no longer rely on the kit to determine progesterone level in the bitch; we need to send the blood sample to a lab to determine a single value for progesterone. The kit determines a range of values, which is not accurate enough for AI. 2) Some males may be great sires in natural breedings, but will never produce puppies when their semen has been frozen. 3) We would have better success in AI breedings with proven females, that is, females that have already produced a litter or two. With this in mind, we decided that females to be bred for the first time were to be bred naturally before we would use AI on them. 4) We learned about technical procedures that would be of help to the veterinarian who was performing the AI.

Jim Seibel also met with Dr. Walter Threlfall, Professor and Head of Theriogenology (animal reproduction) at Ohio State University. Jim Crouse's daughter, Carrie, whose is a student in the vet school arranged the meeting. Among the many areas of discussion was the use of frozen semen, the importance of progeny testing, and strict adherence to x-raying hips to control hip dysplasia. Dr. Threlfall teaches the technique of thawing frozen semen and surgically implanting it. We will utilize his talents again in the future.

In addition to the above, we have been in close contact with Dr. Dostal and have sent him the pedigrees of proposed breedings we are considering. One of the things that Dr. Dostal calculates when looking at these pedigrees is Wright's Inbreeding Coefficient (Fx). The Fx measures the degree of relationship between the sire and dam of the proposed litter, which depends on how many ancestors are common to both sire and dam and how far back those common ancestors are. Breedings with high Fx values (breeding dogs that are too closely related, i.e. inbreeding) must be avoided because this can lead to temperament problems.

Below is a list of the planned breedings for the coming year. You will note that one of the first things we did was break our rule about using AI only with proven females. Two of the females we are breeding with AI have never been bred. The reason for this is relatively simple: every male available for these females resulted in an Fx value that was too high. Also we are having more and more problems shipping dogs with airlines due to weather constraints (too hot or too cold) and simply cannot ship dogs from one end of the country to the other during the winter period (when most of our females are coming into season).

1. **Grailey of Auger Falls X Alan od Strome (AI) (completed Oct., 31, 2002)**
2. **Acacia of the Great Plains X Abel of Nichols Creek**
3. **Merrymeetings Bogan X Alan od Strome (AI)**
4. **Abby of Valley House X Abe of Nichols Creek**
5. **Bella of High Desert X Archie of the High County**
6. **Cokopelli of Birkshire Pond X Abel of Nichols Creek**
7. **Possible - Avery of Mountain House X Dar z Tiske Hajenky (AI)**

WPGCA – TREASURER'S REPORT – 2002BALANCE – SEPTEMBER 30, 2001 **\$8,771.56****INCOME**

Membership Fees	\$5,700.00
Merchandise	92.50
Back Issue GDS	90.00
Puppy Fees	\$1,170.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,052.50

EXPENSES

Postage	\$18.36
Printing	219.00
Advertising	1,315.50
Secretary's Office	600.00
Breeding Committee	2,947.86
Registrar's Office	145.64
Telephone	141.45
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,387.81

BALANCE SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 **\$10,436.25****WPGCA – E&RF TREASURER'S REPORT – 2002**BALANCE – SEPTEMBER 30, 2001 **\$5,968.88****INCOME**

Donations	\$10,776.00
Test/Seminar Fees	3,135.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$13,911.00

EXPENSES

Gun Dog Supreme	\$6,169.85
Travel	991.05
Tests/Seminars	4,561.40
Miscellaneous	217.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,939.95

BALANCE – SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 **\$ 7,939.93**

TREASURER'S NOTE The above reports for the WPGCA and the E&RF are summaries of each. Anyone who would like more detail in any area, please contact me, Jim Seibel, and I will be happy to provide it.

DONATIONS:

Bernard Constantine
Hunterdon Hills Animal
Hospital
William Bennett
Mark Canfield
Elizabeth Mayer
Dana Webber
Rob Reed
Heartland Chapter
Phil Bennett

Steven Meuter
E. M. Ellingson
Roger Treadway-
Dick Austin
Dave Read
John Diller
Gordon Hartunian
Mike Branigan
Warren Webster
Jim Montgomery

Ted Coon
Marla McIntyre
Terry Carruthers
Rick Molt
Sandy Cushman
Steve Grieser
Steve Smith
Tim Dysart
John Pitlo
Allen Norman

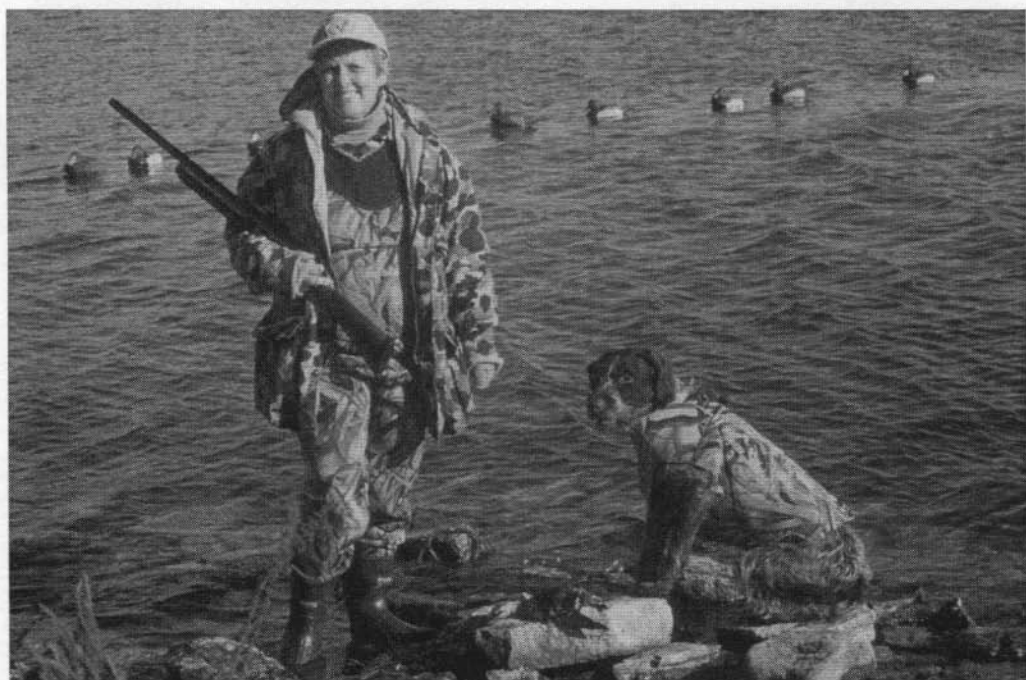
Al Canaris
John Bosi
Will Jenkins
Victor Woodward
John Marshall
Cory Claussen
Jane McKenna
Vaughn Anthony
Douglas Hojem
Don Fizer



BRISBY OF ALDERBROOK (*Chyte ze Zaplav x Bailey of Ocean House*) tries to stay awake for this photo after woodcock hunting along the Miramichi River - New Brunswick.
(Photo by: Andy Goode, fall 2001)



BOGIE OF AGASSIZ LOWLANDS (*Chyte Ze Zaplav x Berta of Show-Me-Borealis*) with a pheasant, sharptail and prairie chicken - (Photo by: Jack Freidel, October, 2001)



Sue Niemann and **DUSKY VON AUGER FALLS** (*Barton de los Altos x Cassidy of Dutchman's Hollow*) on a successful duck hunt in Door County, WI. (Photo by: Ben Niemann, Nov. 2001)