

MGDA

The Manitoba Gun Dog Association Newsletter



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EDITOR'S CORNER

I sincerely hope that everyone is healthy in these trying times. Our training regiment certainly seems to be on the back burner as we work through this pandemic.

I was fortunate to receive a very interesting article that Marcy Wright sent me sharing a conversation she had with Danny Farmer, hope you enjoy.

If you have any suggestions or articles for the newsletter please forward them to me, I really appreciate any help I can get.

Send in your pictures for the draw for the next cover.



ON THE COVER:

Picture borrowed from Pinterest.

THINKING OF YOU:

- Bob Chrystal

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS:

Marilyn Bayrak

Bob Norris

Dewayne Hay

Colin McMichael

Carrie Whenham

Marcy Wright

Danny Farmer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Members

Like yourselves I was looking forward to a busy year of field trials, hunt tests and working certificate tests but the uncertainty caused by Covid 19 has changed everything. We are living in uncertain times and while we'd all like things to be the way they were that's not likely to happen for quite some time, nobody knows. The important thing is to stay healthy for our own and other people's sake. So how will the situation affect us?

An MGDA executive meeting was held April 16th via conference call. Discussion on whether we will hold our usual trials, hunt tests and working certificates consumed the larger part of the meeting. The virus situation is in constant state of flux and while it appears that things are starting to open up, we need a bit more time before we decide to cancel anything. We are optimistic that we can hold at least some of our scheduled events but want to see how things unfold over the next two weeks before making a final decision. A motion was passed to cancel the Spring Trial, we will determine at a later date if it can be rescheduled this year. The next event is the June Hunt Test and Working Certificate, we will review the situation and report back to you in two weeks time.

Significant excavation work has been done on the west side of our grounds. A report on this is included later in this newsletter. Thanks go out to Dewayne Hay, Colin McMichael and Murray Milne for the many trips to the grounds they made to direct the excavator operator. The grounds are still very wet and are not open to training or use of any kind so please refrain from using them until further notice.

Dewayne Hay and Geoff Plouffe have been soliciting donations from various sources and are optimistic that they will be successful. A recurring question they were asked was what would the money be used for and given the organizations solicited support conservation issues, it was decided that we would have greater success obtaining donations if the grounds were designated a no hunting area. So as of this point there is to be no hunting of any kind on the MGDA property. I realize this decision may not be popular with a few, but if it helps garner donations it will benefit the many.

I'm disappointed this year is not turning out like we'd hoped it would; but, this is a minor inconvenience compared to what many others are faced with.

My best regards to you all, stay safe.

Bob Norris
President, MGDA



Grounds Report

As of April 2020

Last fall the Grounds Committee arranged for some major improvements to be started on the west side.

In addition to brush clearing , significant digging was done to remove bull rushes and open up water on both sides of the east/west causeway and, this was about 75% complete.

After discussions with our 2020 National Committee it was decided that in addition to completing the west side work we would also make significant improvements to the east side in the area of the two island pond.

In the past two weeks most of the west side work was completed leaving one day left to finish when it warms up a little . A day of mound cleanup will also be done this summer when it warms up.

As we are all aware “Covid-19” arrived putting a damper on our plans. The 2020 National has been cancelled as have several local trials, putting a strain on revenues and our club finances.

Given the present financial uncertainty there are no plans for any east side work this year.

Hopefully when things get back to normal volunteer work parties will once again start up and we can enjoy the improvements we have made.



Training Tips

By Danny Farmer as told to Marcy Wright

I have the extreme privilege of spending my winters at Vinwood Kennels in Anderson, TX. This is owned by the legend Danny Farmer. He has won 4 Nationals and a list of other accolades that is too long to put in your newsletter. I see Danny every day while here, but it's not often either of us have the time to really spend any time "talking dogs". When we do spend the time, they are moments I cherish.

A few days ago, I left Kenny to train by himself and went and spent some time with Danny on the other side of his property. He was running a water blind and he was by himself. It is a rarity for a pro to train by themselves, as we are normally surrounded by clients and it is a real treat when it happens. To be lost in ones thoughts and be alone with the dogs is a special treat. After watching him in silence for a while and exchanging our usual pleasantries, I got down to the business of asking him about this article. Larry Baker had suggested a topic of good setups for Amateur training groups and testing vs. training. I mentioned the topics to Danny and then listened as the wisdom came forth.

Danny suggests that when designing setups, a trainer should always look for something to work on. While setting up "good Field Trial marks" is fun...it's not good training at the end of the day. Does your dog have a certain weakness? Is there a certain bird he has failed on in the past few Field Trials? Examples of birds to work on are short guns, tight birds behind a gun or big punch birds. It's a good idea to isolate the bird you want to work on by leaving the gun out, having the other birds in the test be fairly straight forward or break the test down as singles.

Danny said to not be afraid to handle and make it training instead of "trying to win the training" or "seeing what they will do". Handling on a bird, or having a gun help may seem like a disappointment to some trainers but it's not a disappointment at all to Danny. It's training.

Breaking down tests to work on a concept is ideal. He often sees Amateurs "try the triple" instead of getting in the opportunity to really focus on a concept and advance the dog. He admits some dogs need the challenge of the triple, but these are generally dogs that have a high level of success in training and he certainly doesn't let them slop around on the marks if he does do the triple. Danny reminisced that NFC Otis needed a challenge as he was such a good marking dog, broken down tests (a double and a single for example) were too easy for him and he could become quite arrogant in his marking. On the other hand, Danny mentioned that his first dog FC Babe needed almost every test broken down to isolate the concepts or failure would overwhelm her. At the time Danny had Babe, he was training with Judy Aycock and she had NFC Honcho, among other great dogs. Danny said it was hard for him to simplify the tests for his dog at the time as he wanted to try to run them like Judy ran Honcho, but Judy was a steady guide in his early days to focus on what was best for Babe and that trying to "win training" was not in Babe's best interest.

Danny also spoke about a saying that Rex Carr had: “believe what you see”. In a nutshell, this means don’t make excuses. I asked Danny to elaborate and he said if you see a dog cheating the water...he’s cheating the water. Don’t think it’s anything else. Too often trainers make excuses for their dogs instead of admitting what is right there in front of them and training on it. Danny also said this can apply to Amateurs in a training group who see multiple dogs failing on a test. He said to “believe what you see” and instead of trying to “win the training”, figure out what about the test is making the dogs fail. If it’s a long punch bird they can’t get to, throw it as a single. If it’s a retired mark on the water that dogs are cheating, leave the gun out to work on the cheat with a true reference (the gun being out instead of retired).

At the end of the chat, it became clear that the moral of the story was to simplify, not be afraid to train and work on concepts as isolated birds. I could have stayed with Danny all day training but had to get back to my own dogs. It was clear, driving away that what I was seeing was a legend of the game, but also just a man with his dogs...enjoying the day...enjoying the training and loving what he does.

All I need to know
about life I learned
from my dog.



If you stare at someone long enough, eventually you'll get what you want. ■ When it comes to having sex, if at first you don't succeed, beg. ■ Don't go out without I.D. ■ Be direct with people; let them know exactly how you feel by piddling on their shoes. ■ Be aware of when to hold your tongue, and when to use it. ■ Leave room in your schedule for a good nap. ■ Always give people a friendly greeting - a cold nose in the crotch is effective. ■ When you do something wrong, always take responsibility (as soon as you're dragged out from under the bed). ■ If it's not wet and sloppy, it's not a real kiss.

sun-gazing.com
AN INTERNATIONAL

AN ELDERLY WOMAN WAS WALKING HER DOG WHEN A YOUNG MAN GRABBED HER PURSE AND RAN AWAY. I ASKED IF SHE WAS OKAY. SHE SMILED AND SAID THAT IT'S REALLY NO BIG DEAL BECAUSE SHE CARRIES HER OLD PURSE TO PUT HER DOG'S POOP IN IT UNTIL SHE GETS HOME TO DISPOSE OF IT.

Not all girls are made of sugar
and everything nice



Some are made of
adventure, dark chocolate,
cuss words, and
lots of dog hair

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead.

He remembered dying, and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them..

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight.

When he was standing before it he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother-of-pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold. He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side.

When he was close enough, he called out, 'Excuse me, where are we?'

'This is Heaven, sir,' the man answered.

'Would you happen to have some water?' the man asked.

'Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up'. The man gestured, and the gate began to open.

'Can my friend,' gesturing toward his dog, 'come in, too?' the traveller asked.

'I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets.'

The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog.

After another long walk, and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road leading through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence. As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

'Excuse me!' he called to the man. 'Do you have any water?'

'Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there, come on in..'

'How about my friend here?' the traveller gestured to the dog.

'There should be a bowl by the pump.'

They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveller filled the water bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog.

When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree.

'What do you call this place?' the traveller asked.

'This is Heaven,' he answered.

'Well, that's confusing,' the traveller said. 'The man down the road said that was Heaven, too.'

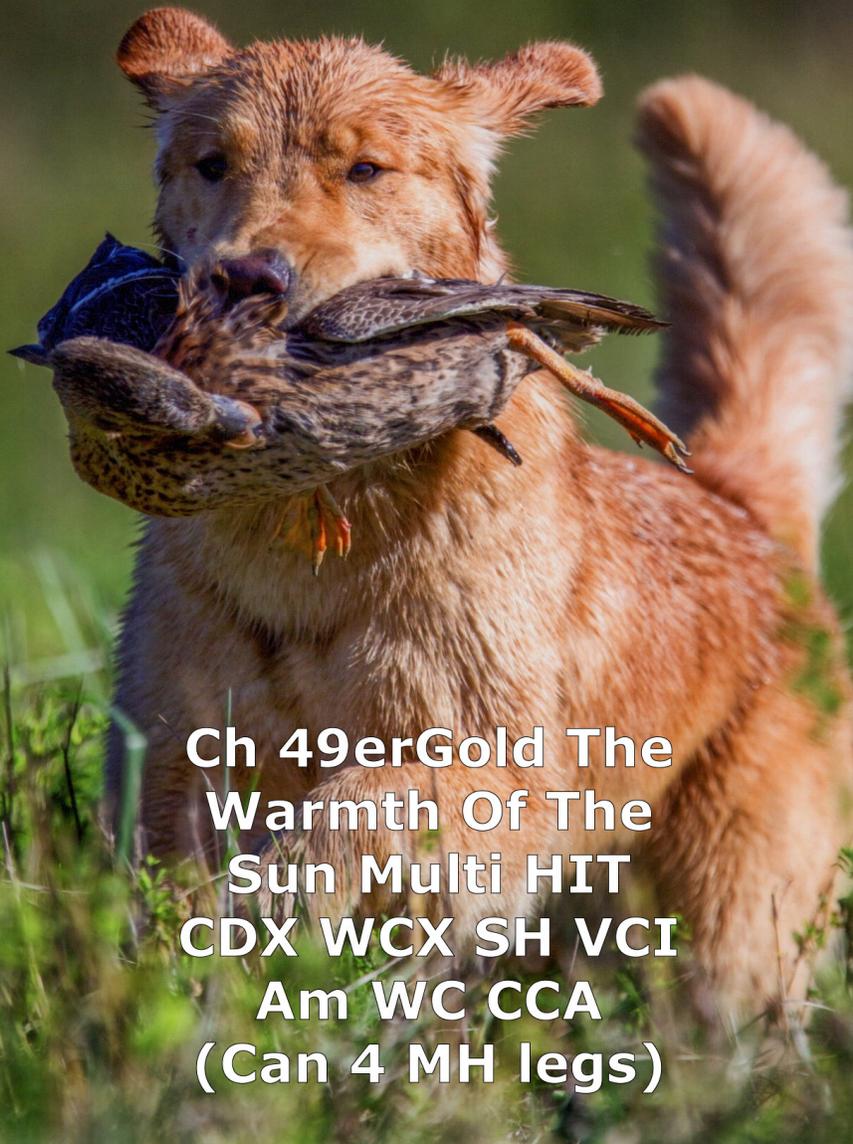
'Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's hell.'

'Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?'

'No, we're just happy that they screen out the folks who would leave their best friends behind.'

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1/15/11 - 1/27/20
Run free Sunshine girl
Retrieve those birds
Forever!



**Ch 49erGold The
Warmth Of The
Sun Multi HIT
CDX WCX SH VCI
Am WC CCA
(Can 4 MH legs)**



Tannis Peikoff is a fairly new member of the MGDA, she runs her dogs in obedience, flyball, working certificates and most recently ran for her first time in the Copper State Hunting Retriever Club's Starter Level at a trial in Mayer Arizona and passed both days. Picture of Tannis and her very versatile dog Star is attached.

#Coronavirus has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We're told "no" if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.

**Never in my life
would I have
imagined that
my hands
would
consume
more alcohol
than my
mouth**



I look normal but believe me,
I talk to dogs.

**YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MANY
CRAZY PEOPLE ARE IN THE WORLD**



@thingsdoghandlersay

**UNTIL YOU HAVE JOINED
THE DOG WORLD!**

Executive Committee

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Submissions Welcome!

This is a publication of The Manitoba Gun Dog Association Inc. We are always looking for content. You can send us your ideas, photos or articles to larryjbaker99@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

MGDA

MANITOBA GUN DOG
ASSOCIATION



Preserving Working Retrievers Since 1935

The MGDA was originally formed in 1935 by a group of hunters and sportsmen with an interest in training retrievers for waterfowl hunting and competition. Incorporated in 1972, The Manitoba Gun Dog Association Inc. has played an important role in Canadian working retriever history. Today the MGDA has approximately 75 members. The Club hosts two Canadian Kennel Club licensed Field Trials and two CKC licensed Hunt Tests annually. In addition the club provides a number of informal Picnic Trials and Retriever Workshops each year .

<http://www.manitobagundog.com>