



Conformation • Field • Obedience

# Golden Tales

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January 2024



## 2023 Officers & Board

**President:** Lynn Coats

lcoates@solvaybank.com

**Vice Pres:** Julie DeKing

juliedeking@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Deanna Rodriguez

dr238@cornell.edu

**Treasurer:**

Open

**Board members:**

Janet Gray

janetgray@highlandfarmskennel.com

Lynn Mickinkle

lmickinkle@gmail.com

Deb Watrous

dwatrous22@gmail.com

Kelly Mueller

kidquilter@aol.com

Beth Greenfield

grnelzb@aol.com

Welcome  
New members!

## ON THE COVER

Angus Hold My Scotch @ Cayuga Highlands, CGC, TKN  
“Gus” Gray  
beloved by Janet and Tom Gray

## What's Inside?

Welcome New Members.....	2
Activity and Event Leaders.....	3
Calendar of Events.....	3
President's Message.....	4
Morris Lifetime Study.....	5
Brag.....	5
AKC Fit Walk.....	6
Awards Dinner.....	10

On the internet:  
[www.grccny.org](http://www.grccny.org)

On Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/GRCCNY/>

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Golden Tales will be June 2024  
Deadline for submission of articles is June 10, 2024

## Where to Send It ... For

### Golden Tales - Website -Golden Retriever News

All members are encouraged to contribute and submit material.

Send to: Janet Gray: [janetgray@highlandfarmskennel.com](mailto:janetgray@highlandfarmskennel.com)

ALL brags, all material you'd like to see on our website ([www.grccny.org](http://www.grccny.org))

## Activity and Event Leaders

### Awards

Kelly Mueller

### CCA 2024

Lynn Mickinkle

### Community awareness and Facebook

Julie Deking

### Eye and heart clinic

Lynn Mickinkle

### Field

Pam Fuller

saddlesoarsfarm@gmail.com

### GRNews

OPEN

### Legislative Liaison

Lynne Meili

### Membership

Deanna Rodriguez

### Newsletter-Golden Tales

Janet Gray

### Puppy Referral

### Specialty Show

Beth Greenfield

Kelly Mueller

### Sunshine

Kelly Mueller

### WC/WCX

Lisa Mitchell & Pam Fulle Chairpersons

Secretary - Kathy McCloskey

### Website

Deanna Rodriguez

## Calendar of Events

### 2023

#### January

10 **Golden Tales Deadline**

#### February

20 **General meeting @7pm via ZOOM**

#### March

30 **Specialty**

#### April

6 **Cornell Univ Vet School Open House 10am - 4pm**

16 **General meeting @7pm via ZOOM/in person**

27 **CCA @ SOTC\*\***

#### May

#### June

10 **Golden Tales Deadline**

18 **General meeting @ 7pm via ZOOM/in person**

#### July

#### August

20 **General meeting @7pm via ZOOM/in person**

#### September

14 **WC/WCX\*\***

**Location TBD**

17 **General meeting @7pm via ZOOM/in person**

#### October

10 **Golden Tales Deadline**

15 **General Meeting @ 7pm via ZOOM/in person**

#### November

#### December

15 **Holiday Party & Awards Dinner**

**\*\*NOTE: We will put the forms for all events  
and awards on the website**



## President's Message

Happy New year Everyone,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! It was great to see everyone at our first in person banquet in a few years. It was wonderful to share a meal and laughter with everyone! Thank you to everyone who came. We had our first board meeting in December. We have some exciting new events for 2024: a tracking seminar, hopefully a Rally trial, and more Fitdog events. We are all very excited about these new events.

We had a busy fall. Our eye clinic went well. We had almost 40 participants. Thiis year we are looking at a new cardiologist, and are looking at adding echocardiograms. Meeting dates are set for 2024. We decided to have our meetings every second month, and are looking at adding some programs for our meetings. If anyone has any ideas, we would love to hear them!

The March specialty is all set with Kurt D Anderson as our judge, and Jennifer Andrews doing sweeps. Kari Mick-inke is working hard at acquiring our judges for CCA, with a tentative date of April 28th, more to come on that. Julie DeKing and new member Tammy Synder are working on setting up a Tracking seminar for this spring/early summer.

We are disparte for a Treasurer. If you have any spare time (it doesn't take a lot) please let us know.  
Lynn, Dallas, Diezel and Bodhi



*Dallas and Diezel*



*Bodhi at Christmas*

***Resources on Animal Health from Morris Animal Foundation***

Are we finally getting closer to improving diagnosis and treatment for dogs with hemangiosarcoma?

Learn about new ideas around this deadly form of cancer, promising studies underway and how both our Golden Retriever Lifetime Study and Hemangiosarcoma Initiative are providing hope for thousands of dogs and their owners: <https://ivcjournal.com/new-ideas-about-hemangiosarcoma.../>

## BRAGS

**Tanner** (Gemstar's Lightning Strikes) owned by Julie DeKing, earned his Fit Dog Bronze and Silver titles and his Barn Hunt Master Champion X2 titles.

Tanner is only the 23rd Golden Retriever in the country to earn this Barn Hunt title!!



**Julie and Tanner**

Golden Tales is the official member newsletter of The Golden Retriever Club of Central New York, Inc. a Member club of The Golden Retriever Club of America and Licensed by The American Kennel Club. Original and republished material is selected on the basis of quality, author credentials, and potential interest to members, but implies neither acceptance nor endorsement of content, methods, or products by GRCCNY.

We are honored to have received multiple Dog Writers Association of America awards.

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Inquiries, submissions and correspondence should be directed to:

Janet Gray: [janetgray@highlandfarmskennel.com](mailto:janetgray@highlandfarmskennel.com)



**Thank you to everyone that sponsored trophies!  
Is there anyone that would like their sponsorship  
to be in honor of anyone or dog?  
If so, please email Kelly Mueller at [kidquilter@aol.com](mailto:kidquilter@aol.com).**

## **AKC Fit Dog Walk**

The Golden Retriever Club of CNY was happy to get approved by the AKC to be an official Fit Dog Club in November, and wasted no time scheduling our first official walk! We held our First Annual Turkey Trot on Sunday November 26, 2023.

This first walk was a great success. We had approximately 50-60 dogs attend! Despite some very windy, cold weather we had a great walk at Onondaga Lake Park. The walk varied from 1 mile up to 3.1 miles.

For those unfamiliar with the Fit Dog Titles you can visit <https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/akc-fit-dog-titles/> for more information. In short, for each title (Bronze, Silver, Gold) you need a certain number of points from 2 categories. One of the categories is "Walks and Hikes". Our official Fit Dog walks qualify for points from this category. For the Bronze title you need 1 group walk. For the Silver Title you need 2 more walks, and the Gold Title requires another 2 walks.

As an official Fit Dog Club we need to hold a total of 4 walks per year. We look forward to using these walks as a way for our members to get together to exercise and have fun with our dogs! We plan on having some walks open to the public, and we may hold some walks that we open only to club members. We are planning on waiting for better weather to hold another planned public walk. Watch your email over the winter. If we have unexpected warm weather forecasted for a weekend day we may try to plan a last minute walk for club members. We only need 3 dogs to participate for a walk to be considered official.

If you have any questions or if you have suggestions on locations for future walks you can contact Julie DeKing.

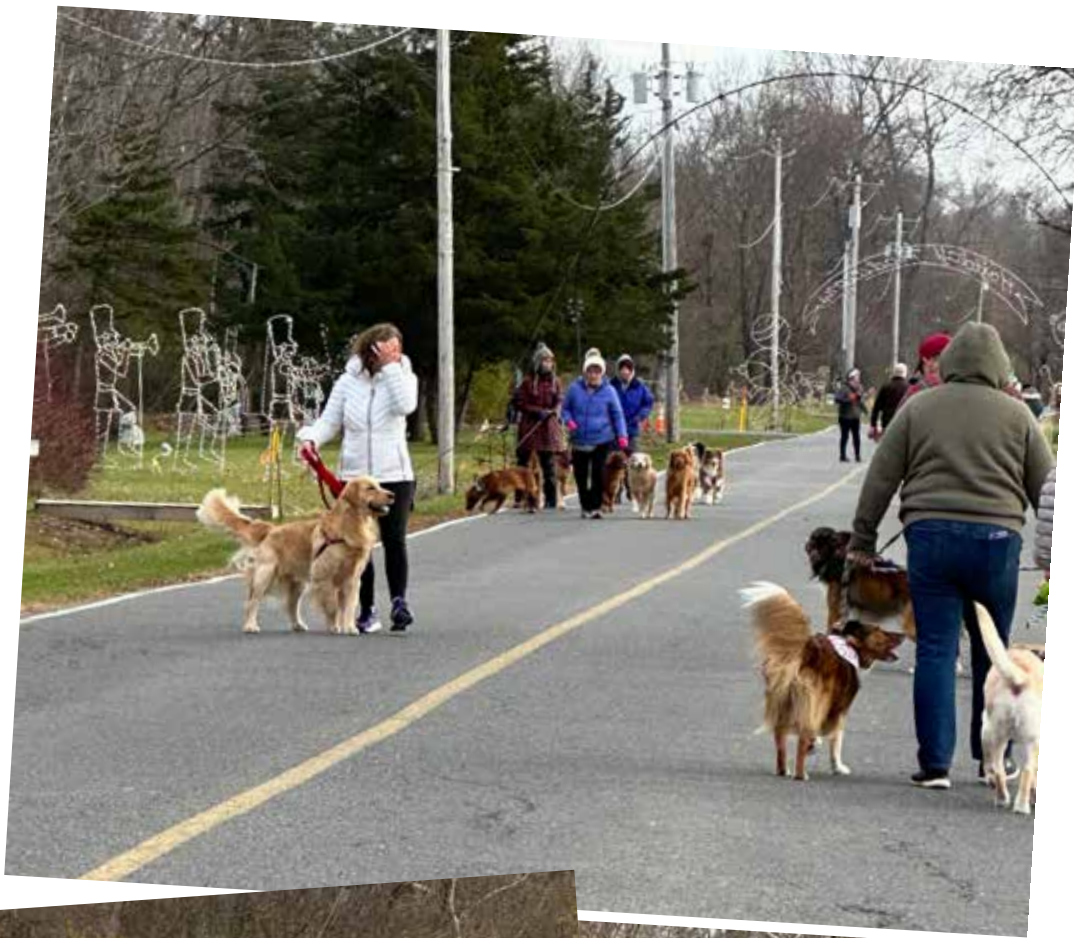






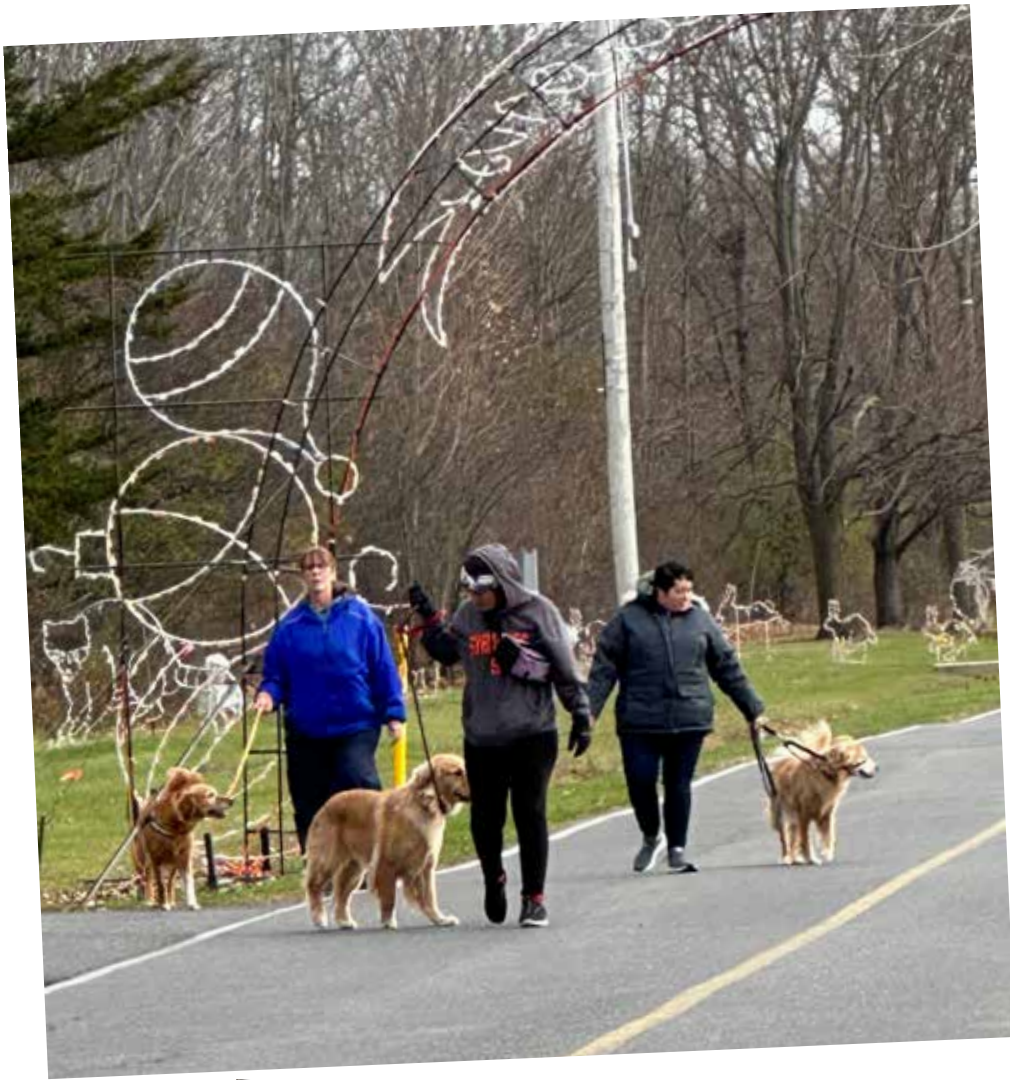
## Fit Walk





## Fit Walk





## Fit Walk

# 2023 Awards Dinner

Carol Krehel:

**Painting Storybook Serenity** Duffy R got FITB, FITS, FITG, SIN, ACT1, ACT1J

Kelley Mueller:

**Waynewoods Paisley Tapestry** got SIN, FD AKC star puppy.

Lynn Coates:

**Storybook Jumpin Jack Flash** got CGC

Peggy Mooney:

**Wilson** got MSJ, MACH, MXP

**Demi** got MBJ, CDX, MXB, BCAT

Kathy McLoskey:

**Topmast Rain Dancer** got UD, MXS, MACH2

**Sykefire Prairie Gold** got PCDX, MJP2, MJPB, PADHOF, MXP2, MJP3, MXPB, PACH

Beth Greenfield:

**Westbrook's Snow on Lilacs** got BN

**Westbrook's A Note of Worth** got RAI, RA

Bruce and Audrey Coleman:

**HRCH Skylight's Repeat Offender** CDX, CCA, CGC got WCX

Kathy and Larry Boyer:

**Ch Pine Mountain 2 Can Play this Game** got BCAT, CGC

**Storybook's Raft Race** for your Life got CCA

Julie DeKing

**Gemstar's Lightning Strikes** earned CGC, AJ, and FITB

The Carol Allen memorial Golden Member Award was awarded to **Kari Mickinkle**

Shooting Star Rainbow Bridge Award was awarded to **Comet** owned by Lynn Mickinkle

Shooting Star Rainbow Bridge Award also went to **Finn** owned by Janet Gray

The Versatility Award was awarded to Dancer owned by **Kathy McCloskey**

Heart of Gold Award was awarded to Blaze owned by **Kari Mickinkle**



## WINNER OF SHOOTING STAR AWARD

I would like to nominate **Comet** for the Shooting Star Rainbow Bridge Award for 2023

The mold was 100% broken when Comet was created. As a puppy, Comet was a force to be reckoned with and that never changed. She was equal parts sassy and sweet, which is a combination that keeps you on your feet. While most people pick their puppy, I had the pleasure of being picked by Comet. After Comet's litter was born and the puppies were cleared to have visitors, we would head over to Grandma Maxine's house to visit as much as possible. Once Comet decided that I was her human, she would always run up to me, give me a kiss, and then she would run off to go back and play with her siblings. That initial bond blossomed into Comet becoming my "heart dog". During our time together, her and I learned to become a team through agility, field work, obedience, and rally. Comet absolutely flourished in the agility ring, and she made it an activity that we both enjoyed, and she was only 4 QQ's away from receiving a MACH before she had to retire due to her poor eyesight. Throughout her time on Earth, Comet had 3 extremely memorable traits. The first was that she had a rogue black whisker, which if you ran your finger a little bit above the whisker would make her have a weird spasm and slightly snarl. Her second memorable trait was her bark that was so loud, it would pierce right through your whole body. And while you could get Comet to bark on command, you unfortunately could not get her to shut up on command. Her third memorable trait was one that no one enjoyed. Comet became known as halitosis breath in our house because no matter what we tried, her breath was always awful, and she would always insist on panting in your face to add insult to injury. Comet's impact was felt by everyone around her. Comet rarely met someone she did not like, especially if they had cookies to give her. Cookies were her favorite thing, so much so that she would always be close to giving herself whiplash at the mere mention of the word. This was probably one of the reasons she loved to train so much. Whenever I would go to the basement she would follow me down hoping that we would be doing some training. She would come sit by my side, throw her head back and look at me to say, "I'm ready, let's go". She also loved to go swimming in the pool, daintily climbing in and out because she refused to jump in. Regardless, she was always ready to get in the pool and fetch some bumpers. On top of fetching bumpers, Comet was also known to be extremely helpful and would fetch up the most random objects for you. The most entertaining example of this was the time that she fetched a beer out of a cooler for a very thirsty human.

While it has been 4 1/2 years since Comet left us, there is still a large hole in my heart that time cannot erase. Comet was a once in a lifetime dog, so I appreciate your consideration of her for the Shooting Star Rainbow Bridge Award.

Lynn Mickinkle

**Did you know we are now on Facebook? You can access us from your facebook page (just search for Golden Retriever Club of Central New York) or press the facebook link on our club website: [WWW.GRCCNY.ORG](http://WWW.GRCCNY.ORG). You don't need to have a Facebook account to see our facebook page, but you will need a facebook account if you would want to "like" our page or post a picture of your pooch.**



# WINNER OF SHOOTING STAR AWARD

Nomination: Cayuga Highlands Gold-Rush Finian, “Finn”

Finn was my “shooting star” from the moment he was born. He was from the last litter I would breed, the last litter for his mom Gold-Rush Orianna of Atholl and his dad CH Gold-Rush Spinnaker Wildcard.

Finn accomplished so much and contributed so much to the golden retriever breed, as a therapy dog, helping with rescued goldens that came into our home, to research and health initiatives, and volunteering.

His accomplishments and contributions were:

- Golden Retriever #79 in the Morris Animal Foundation’s Golden Retriever Lifetime Study — additionally he helped recruit for the study, as well represent the study at Cornell University’s Vet School Open House,
- Enrolled in the Shine On Study,
- Samples of blood at the Broad Institute to study Juvenile Renal Dysplasia (he had three sisters pass from this condition).
- Samples in the DNA Bank at Cornell University
- BSM Study for dilated cardiomyopathy
- Clinical Trial for chronic elbow pain
- Loyal Health Span Study
- Dog Aging Study
- Golden Oldie Study
- Represented Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York at events. Helped foster golden retriever rescues.
- A therapy dog for Cornell Companions visiting assisted living, nursing homes, at risk youth and a hospice.
- Represented the Golden Retriever Club of Central New York at events.
- Volunteered for the Salvation Red Kettle campaign every Christmas.

He will best be remembered though as an incredible dog with a natural affinity for humans that need comforting. He loved the rescued goldens that passed through our home and took them in “under his paw”. He was a “nanny” dog to new pups in our home. He loved trips to the ice cream shop, diving for balls in the kiddie pool, snoozing on the couch.

Finn, you will always be my shooting star!

Janet Gray



## WINNER OF VERSATILITY AWARD

**MACH2 Topmast Rain Dancer** UD BN RA JH MXS MiS MXF T2B BCAT TKI CCA WCX VCX ADHF

I would like to nominate “Topmast Rain Dancer” for the Versatility Award. In her four years of life, she has earned 32 titles in 11 different venues. This includes 2 Championships, a GRCA Agility Hall of Fame and an invitation to AKC’s National Obedience Invitational.

At less than one year old, she earned her WC title. At one year old, she earned two Trick titles, her Novice Agility Jumpers and her Rally Novice title. At two years old, she earned several obedience titles (the highest being her CDX), her Rally Advanced title, her Junior Hunter and WCX, her BCA1 several agility titles (the highest being Master Excellent), and two GRCA titles including the CCA and VC.

Continuing on, at three years old she earned several agility titles (the highest being Master Agility Champion), and two GRCA titles including the Agility Dog Hall of Fame and the Versatility Dog Excellent). In this past yearj, she earned her obedience Utility Dog title and a second Master Agility Champion.

I have been fortunate to have had several talented and wonderful goldens. However, Dancer is most likely my most versatile and biddable. I pray that she stays healthy and that we can continue to participate in the partnership and challenges of dog sports.

Submitted by owner nominator, Kathy McCloskey

## WINNER OF CAROL ALLEN AWARD

I am writing to nominate **Kari Mickinkle** for the Carol Allen Memorial Golden Member Award for 2023. This member is invaluable to our club. She never hesitates to step up and volunteer to chair events or volunteer her time at club events. She has filled many roles in the club in recent years. She has been involved our Golden Tales newsletter, collecting content, and bringing new columns to the newsletter that allowed members to get to know each other, and our dogs better. She has also served as the co-chair for one of the club’s major events each year, the eye and heart clinic. This past year this amazing member became our club’s President. As president she faced some rough waters. Due to unforeseen circumstances this year, she also became the chair for the CCA, and also was tasked in temporarily taking on the task of the club treasurer until the new treasurer was named. She took on these roles with optimism to assist in making the event and our club successful. As President, in a post COVID world, Karl has worked hard towards rebuilding the club. She started hybrid meetings, allowing members to choose to participate in person or virtually via Zoom. She proposed the new Rainbow Bridge Award which now gives us all a way to honor those special dogs who have passed. We returned to hosting the “Ask a Vet” Panel during our March meeting, and she planned for a return to an in person awards banquet this year.

Kari has paved the way for the future of our club, and is a significant asset to our club. We are lucky to have her. There is no one who has worked harder in her roles than Kari Mickinkle has over the last few years. This makes her a great choice for the Carol Allen Memorial Golden Member Award Julie DeKing

# WINNER OF HEART OF GOLD AWARD

I would like to nominate **Blaze** for the Heart of Gold Award

Many moons ago when my family was looking to add another Golden to our house, we ended up with a puppy that we named Blaze. I tried to steer my parents clear of this choice as she was without a doubt the naughtiest puppy in that litter.

When we would first go and visit the litter, Blaze would run up to me, bite me and then run away to play with the rest of her littermates. This process was repeated every time and later I would realize that the naughtiest puppy in the litter was picking me...not sure what that says about me.

The decision to add Blaze to our family ended up being one that I am so grateful for...minus the time that she threw up in my lap repeatedly in a moving car. We later discovered that she had chewed off the top of an “indestructible” Kong and needed surgery to remove it as it was stuck in her intestine.

Even through that disgusting situation, Blaze and I developed a bond like no other. She experienced heart ache as she watched me go off to college, then the Marine Corps, and then move out on my own.

She has witnessed me bringing other dogs into my life and still she has loved me unconditionally and has always welcomed me back with a bark or happy squeal. Also when she was just a puppy she literally grabbed a bluebird as it was flying over her head and swallowed it. She pooped blue feathers for a few days after.

Blaze never cared to go for car rides. She would go outside and if she thought you were trying to get her in the car she would go belly up on the lawn to make it hard to get her up. Once she was where she was going she was fine.

This past summer, at 14 1/2, Blaze spent every nice day swimming in the pool. She would always jump in from the deck, but this year she was having a hard time jumping in. So we had to teach her that you could also use the stairs to go into the pool not just out. She finally got the hang of it but would still jump off from the first step.

Blaze will be 15 in April and while she is still as sassy as ever, it is still hard to see a part of your family age and know that your time is limited with them. My family and I are so grateful for any time that we have remaining with her. Every day is a blessing.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Blaze for the Heart of Gold Award.  
Kari Mickinkle



**Winners of  
Heart of Gold Award  
Shooting Star Awards  
Carol Allen Award  
Versatility Award**



**Title Winners in 2023**



Golden Retriever Club of Central New York Inc.  
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## Upcoming Events



### February

**20 General meeting @7pm via ZOOM**

### March

**30 Specialty**

### April

**6 Cornell Univ Vet School Open House 10am - 4pm**

**16 General meeting @7pm via ZOOM/in person**

**27 CCA @ SOTC**