

Golden Tales

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January 2025



Conformation · Field · Obedience

Hank, (HR Fern Hill's Most Valuable Player SH, CDX, WCX, CCA, CGC) 12/6/16-9/16/24

2024 Officers & Board

President: Lynn Coates
lynn.coates11@gmail.com

Vice Pres: Kelly Mueller
kidquilter@aol.com

Secretary: Julie DeKing
juliedeking@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Open

Board members:

Janet Gray
janetgray@highlandfarmskennel.com

Lynn Mickinkle
lmickinkle@gmail.com

Deb Watrous
dwatrous22@gmail.com

Tammy Synder
tsrotts1@twcny.rr.com

Beth Greenfield
grnelzb@aol.com

Welcome
New members!

ON THE COVER

Hank, (HR Fern Hill's Most Valuable Player
SH, CDX, WCX, CCA, CGC)
Beloved by Audrey and Bruce Coleman

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On the internet:
www.grccny.org

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

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Golden Tales will be June 2025
Deadline for submission of articles is June 10, 2025

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

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

Activity and Event Leaders

Awards

Kelly Mueller

Community awareness and Facebook

Julie Deking

Eye and heart clinic

Tammy Synder

Kelly Mueller

Field

Pam Fuller

saddlesoarsfarm@gmail.com

GRNews

OPEN

Legislative Liaison

Kelly Mueller

Membership

Julie DeKing

Newsletter-Golden Tales

Janet Gray

Puppy Referral

Julie DeKing

Specialty Show

Beth Greenfield

Kelly Mueller

Sunshine

Kelly Mueller

WC/WCX

Lisa Mitchell & Pam Fuller, Chairpersons

Secretary - Kathy McCloskey

Website

Deanna Rodriguez

Calendar of Events

2025

January

10 **Golden Tales Deadline**

February

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

22 **Grooming Seminar**

March

29 **Specialty**

April

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

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

May

June

10 **Golden Tales Deadline**

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

20-21 **Scent Work Clinic**

July

August

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

September

TBD - WC/WCX**

Location TBD

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

October

10 **Golden Tales Deadline**

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

26 **Eye and Heart Clinic @ Village Vet**

November

December

Holiday Party & Awards Dinner TBD

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



President's Message

Hello and Happy New Year!!!

Exciting Updates for the Golden Retriever Club of Central New York in 2025!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and some well-deserved rest. 2025 is shaping up to be an exciting year for the Golden Retriever Club of Central New York, and I wanted to share a few highlights with you.

Grooming Seminar

We're thrilled to host our very first grooming seminar this year! Spots are filling up quickly, so if you'd like to join, be sure to sign up soon. If you signed up please send in your forms along with a check.

Specialty Event

We're honored to have breeder judge Julie McKinnon (Nautilus Goldens) for our specialty event this year. It's going to be a fantastic specialty. We have ordered some beautiful trophies to make it even more special, along with the rosettes. Hopefully we will have majors.

Field Events

Participation in our field activities is growing, and it's exciting to see so many members getting involved. 2025 is looking to be a strong year for field enthusiasts!

Banquet Highlights

For those who attended the banquet, thank you for making it such a memorable event. It was a wonderful luncheon! Next year, we're planning a few changes to help reduce costs while maintaining the fun and camaraderie.

We had a great Christmas spending it with family at a Lakehouse in Lombardy, Ontario. The dogs loved trying to chase squirrels from inside the house! Crazy boys!

December was sad as we had to say goodbye to Dallas our 14 year rescue. She was truly a very special girl and is greatly missed.

I'm genuinely excited about the year ahead and can't wait to see all the incredible things you and your Golden Retrievers will achieve. Here's to making 2025 a year to remember!

Would you like to add anything about upcoming membership renewals, volunteer opportunities, or other key initiatives?

Lynn, Bodhi and Diezel





Rainbow Bridge Crossings

On 9/16/2024 we sent Hank to the Rainbow Bridge to join up with a bunch of Golden Retrievers we had that had pre-deceased him. Hank, (HR Fern Hill's Most Valuable Player SH, CDX, WCX, CCA, CGC) 12/6/16-9/16/24, lived a full life while battling oral fibrosarcoma for more than 2 ½ years. One year into this battle his upper jaw on one side was removed.

Three months before his death I asked him what was on his wish list. The answer was swimming and more swimming and meeting his good friends. So we took him swimming and let him meet his friends. Like most Golden Retrievers, everybody was Hank's friend but there were a few special ones. As for swimming, the day before he died Hank got to go swimming twice during a training day for the Northern Montezuma Hunting Retriever Club.

We had made arrangements with Dr. Tracey Stevens to come to our home to euthanize Hank on 9/16 and, before she arrived, Hank took his last swim in our ponds. Although he had basically stopped eating a few days earlier, he was interested in a pot roast Audrey had cooked for human consumption. So Hank ate pot roast and what started out as 5 lbs. of meat yielded only one meal for Bruce. Hank also enjoyed the gravy.

Bruce and Audrey Coleman



Hank

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. 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.



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

BRAGS

The Coleman family went to the Golden Retriever National Specialty in October. We participated in events held in NY, CT and Massachusetts. Lots of driving as you can tell.

First was the hunt test where Angel earned a bonus leg on her Master Hunter title. Then on to Connecticut where she earned her WCX title.

Then to Massachusetts where Angel and Fred earned their first obedience passes in Beginner Novice. Both dogs finished up their BN titles at the Syracuse Obedience Training Club trials held later that month.

Audrey



Angel at GRCA Master Test October 2024



**Angel and Audrey
at GRCA National WCX**

happiness is
a warm
puppy

We kept a pup from our recent litter, his name is Bonefeathers Splendid Splinter (call name Teddy, named after Red Sox legend Ted Williams). He's pictured here with his sire, Yaz.

Judi Questel



Yaz and Teddy

The Nationals

It was very exciting to plan for the 2024 as it was so close to home. I knew that Muddee would be in heat so she was my only non-entry. The rest of three took some strategy.

I was so honored to be asked to be a CCA evaluator at the Hunt Test in Sprakers, 1 hours drive from my home in Oneida. A nice tract of land with the Junior and Seniors working in the front acreage and the Master was down a gully and way in the back. I brought Maple along for the ride to gain experience at an outdoor venue.

The GRCA set a big tent for the CCA, a Bar-B-Q and a GRCA storefront selling all sorts of apparel with the logo. Doing a CCA outside is tricky as we have to have good and level ground to move dogs. So we had to shift some areas to do just that. We had a lovely entry of 24 with some still damp from the water. At the Bar B Q, we received a Specialty commutative cup. Then it was a quick drive home. My only concern was one Port-a-John near the gully. Big thanks to Julie Deking and Lyn Mckinkle for volunteering at the CCA. It was nice to touch base with so many dedicated field people.

On Tuesday I loaded up the car with all four dogs, forgetting the dog food and bowls on the stove. Lynn C, Kelly M and I shared an AirBnB, 20 minutes from the Big E. The back yard was huge and the dogs enjoyed exploring the whole of it.

Wednesday things got real with Maple entered in Puppy Sweepstakes. Handling class at Star Canine was a huge help. Then a quick trip over to the obedience building to show Gracee in Novice B under Steph Podjdechko. She loved her assignment with our happy goldens.

Thursday I again had a double entry with Maple in regular classes and Brees in Veteran Novice. My priority that day was Brees, she got a qualifying score. I was so happy and in tears at the same time. Brees, at 14 years old, was very happy to be working. Although I missed showing Maple, I was able to watch the bitch classes.

In between all this running back and forth between 2 buildings, I talked to so many golden retriever people from all over the country. There was never a lack of space for crates and grooming, but I am not a big fan of the constant noise of grooming dryers.

The Top 20 Gala was fun as we all got glammed up to see so many great dogs and the Top Juniors.

Friday and Saturday, I was sitting ringside for judges education. It was nice to field some interesting questions from prospective judges. I took some time to talk to one of my mentors, Jeff Pepper. He always has great insight. Barb Pepper was giving a master class on how to judge a golden. I also greeted judge Pluis Davern who has judged our specialty. She is a search and rescue trainer in California. we go back a few years as we have been on some interesting CCA events in Canada and in the U.S.



A tradition of the National is the BOB entries are piped in by true Scottish bagpiper. Gavin who is the seven year old grandson of Michelle Keene gaited his champion Chase all by himself under the guidance of chief ring steward Nancy Talbot.

So after intense 5 days all it was a fun National. You really have to pick and choose what you want to do, volunteer ,etc. But it does take some planning.

Beth Greenfield



GRCCNY 2024 Awards Banquet

The awards banquet was held December 1, 2024 at Bella Domani Restaurant. We were a small group but a fun group. The food was good and filling. Many of our members were busy this year with many dogs receiving and working hard for all different types of titles. The list of dogs and owners titles are listed below. Also we gave out the “Heart of Gold Award” to the Questal’s dog Yaz. The “Shooting Star Rainbow Award” was awarded to Lisa Mitchell in honor of Rook.Both essays are listed below. Congratulation to all and please join us at next years Award Banquet.

Kelly Mueller

Golden Retriever Plaques 2024

Boyers

CH Pine Mountain 2 Can Play This Game 2024 FITB, TKN
Storybook’s Raft Race For Your Life 2024 BCAT, CGC, TKN, FITB

Coates

Storybook Jumpin Jack Flash 2024 TKN, BN, THDN, FITB, CCA, BCAT,
CDN-CH, UKC-CH, FTN, FTI

DeKing

Gemstar’s Lighting Strikes 2023 RATCHX2,
2024 FITS, FITG, CZ8B, SIN,
SEN, SBN, SCN, SWN

Greenfield

Westbrook’s A Note Of Worth 2024 BN, CD

McCloskey

Topmast Rain Dancer 2024 OMI, UPX, OM2
Syefire Praire Gold (Popcorn) 2024 PUDT, MXP3, MXJP4, MJPS,
MXJP5

MicKinkle, L

Emeline's Fishin for the Big One 2024 FITB, RA, FTN, FTI, RE
Wynwood's Shining Star 2024 BN, RA, FTN, FTI

MicKinkle, K

Copperfield's Show Me The Way To Go 2024 CCA, FTN, RN

Mooney

Demi 2024 OF, MACH, MSJ, JH
Wilson 2024 MJP, MXP2, MXPB, SCN, SIN, SEN

Mueller

Waynewood's Paisley Tapestry 2024 FITB, FITS, CGC, RN, SEN, CCA,
SBN, TKN, FTD, RI, SCN, SWN

Watrous

Storybook Shine A Light At TradeWinds 2024 CGCA, TKN, BCAT, SWN

2024 GRCCNY Heart of Gold Award

Submitted by Tom and Judi Questel

The Puppy Who Didn't Want to Leave

On May 3, 2013 we had a litter of puppies – it was quite a way to spend our 33rd wedding anniversary! Everything went well, except for one thing – I had one little boy whose family decided it wasn't the right time for a puppy. So I matched him up to someone else on my waiting list, only to have that one not follow through either. A THIRD match was picked, and you guessed it – that one also fell through. Well, I guess the signals were loud and clear that this puppy was not supposed to go anywhere!

This puppy was the first one in the litter to open his eyes at 12 days old. When I discovered this I brought him to Tom, who was sitting in the recliner. The puppy immediately went right up under his chin and snuggled in, as if to say "You're my pick person!" This was reinforced every time Tom went in the puppy pen, this little pup was always the first to make a beeline over and snuggle into Tom's lap.

That did it, he was staying with us. Naming him was easy as Tom had a boy's name in mind for years. His call name was to be Yaz, after the great Red Sox player Carl Yastrzemski.

This gave us a bit of a dilemma right out of the starting gate, as we had signed up as vendors at a festival in Sackett's Harbor. Yaz was way too young to stay home for that long, so we squeezed in a ground mat, x-pen, extra EZ-Up, puppy necessities and of course the puppy. We set him up with us and he was the hit of the day – talk about early socialization! He got it in spades, and took everything in stride.

At six months old Yaz started demonstrating a strong desire to be a "helper dog". His mother had a small basket that we used to have her carry things in. On one errand Yaz decided he wanted to be the helper and took the basket away from Sidra, which she surprisingly allowed. He carried the basket up the stairs, waited until the items were placed in the basket, then carried it back downstairs and to the final destination, without once dropping the basket. He had found a job to do and was very happy about it.

When Yaz was 15 months old, Tom had a total shoulder replacement done. The first week it was more comfortable to sleep in the recliner, and from the first night Yaz appointed himself as Tom's caretaker. After Tom fell asleep, Yaz took his favorite toy and laid it over the wounded shoulder before

crawling up on the recliner's footrest to curl up for the night. Yaz was so gentle that Tom never felt him at all.

A natural service dog, Yaz is always on the alert for ways to help. If anything is dropped, he is on the run to pick it up. If anything is deemed to be out of place, it gets brought to one of us. He's a great slipper fetcher too, and will get the correct pair for the person asking "go get my slippers." He will deliver items from me in the house out to Tom in the workshop, and has helped bring in produce from the garden. And to think a cuddle and mini biscuit are all he asks for in payment – if only people had a work ethic like his!

Yaz is well known in certain dog-friendly businesses in town, including Lowe's and Tractor Supply. The staff at Lowe's are greatly disappointed if Yaz doesn't come in with us, and he's always greeted warmly. Yaz knows how to shop, too. A query of "Want to go shopping? Get your basket!" gets Yaz up and going with a smile and wagging tail. He takes that aforementioned basket, permanently passed on to him from his mother, and heads to the door. He carries the basket through Lowe's as Tom adds some lightweight items, then he carries it to the register for the cashier. Once the items are rung up and back in the basket, Yaz carries it out to the truck for the ride home. Remember how Yaz will bring things he thinks are out of place? One day in Lowe's an employee was working on a plumbing display and had tools scattered around him on the floor. Yaz went over and started picking up the tools to hand back to the employee, with a look that said "Hey buddy, these were on the floor – I'll help you pick them up!" There's that helper dog attitude again.

A trip to town usually means a stop at Burger King too, of which Yaz much prefers over McDonald's. Whether a chicken nugget or some milkshake, Yaz knows the difference between BK and Mickey D's, and will definitely turn his nose up at the latter. Such a discriminating taste!

Last Christmas Yaz got a chance to spread some holiday cheer at all the places he typically goes around town. We loaded his basket with mini cookies and he carried the basket through the stores, offering a cookie to anyone who stopped to say hi to him. He was in his glory, tail wagging the whole time – brightening the day of everyone he met.

Five years ago, we added a pair of shelter kittens to the family. One kitten, Kira, became totally smitten with Yaz and insisted on making friends. Yaz was a little unsure of her intentions at first but quickly accepted her advances. Such a gentle soul.

One summer Yaz and I attended the club's fun day event and participated in some of the games. One was the egg race, where Yaz had to carry a hard boiled egg back and forth from one end of the course to the other. We were in a few heats, so that egg got carried around quite a bit – but he never broke the shell on the egg. That classic soft mouth on full display.

In September of 2014 we took a trip to New Hampshire for a small Golden retriever gathering organized by a friend, Chan Rudd. A few days before the event Chan had been attacked by a dog, his hand badly injured. One evening we were sitting around the campfire, with Yaz between Chan and myself. Yaz carefully sniffed Chan's injured hand, then gently licked a finger. Chan commented to me "You've got a boo-boo dog," to which I agreed. It wasn't the first time Yaz had honed in on an injury and played caretaker. While on that same trip, Yaz enjoyed swimming in the lake with our other dogs, Sidra and Diva. I snapped a picture of the three dogs working as a team to bring back a bumper – Yaz and Sidra each holding an end and Diva carrying the tether rope as they swam back to shore. A large framed copy of that picture now hangs in an exam room at my vet's office.

Yaz has earned a few titles although his competition career was short due to work schedule constraints. He had a glorious weekend where we ambitiously entered both Novice Obedience and Novice Rally in four trials over the two days. He finished his RN title with four qualifying scores, and his CD title with three qualifying scores. On the fourth CD run he was working on a High in Trial score when he decided he just HAD to go say hi to the judge instead of finishing his recall. Oh well, it was the very last run for his weekend and sometimes the happiness gene just has to take over. He has also earned novice and intermediate trick dog titles, as well as his CCA and CGC.

Tom has now retired, which means he can sleep past 6 AM. Yaz has a morning routine that he rarely deviates from – as soon as I get up, he takes my place so "da boyz" can have their morning meeting (which includes their double high five bump), then right after breakfast Yaz will go back to bed with Tom for an hour or so. Being the only two males in the house, the guys have to stick together here!

In January of 2023, Yaz became sick and we thought we were going to lose him. An ultrasound showed a shadowy area on his spleen and we immediately thought “hemangiosarcoma.” Surgery was debated – do we put him through this at 9 years old, with the possibility of losing him during surgery?

We took a weekend to think about it, which culminated in my having a profound dream directing me to schedule the surgery. Our vet did the surgery that week and discovered there was no evidence of cancer anywhere in Yaz’s abdomen, but his spleen was folding over on itself and wouldn’t go back to a normal position. Consequently a splenectomy was done to prevent the risk of torsion. Yaz recovered quickly and was soon back to the spry, bouncy, happy dog he had been prior to his illness. We are so thankful we chose to give him a chance rather than just assuming it was cancer and letting him go.

Yaz is now 11-1/2 years old and continues to bring joy to everyone he meets. As his sire lived to the amazing age of 17 years old, we are hoping we are blessed with many more years with this special boy.

Bonefeathers Capt Carls 67 Tpl Crown CD, RN, TKI, CCA, CGC - Yaz

Shooting Star Rainbow Bridge Award

Lisa Mitchell and Rook

OTCH Twincreek’s Chess Master At Witrin UDX6 OM9 BN VER RE AX AXJ “Rook”

I’d like to nominate Rook to the above award.

Rook arrived to take care of Lisa at a time in her life when everything was in upheaval. She had been diagnosed with breast cancer and had undergone treatment. This breeding came up for Lisa as a sought-after breeding for her next Obedience partner. She knew both parents and was hoping for a boy of her own. The only boy in the litter, and he was “promised” to a gentleman who was to have first pick of the boys. Turns out the gentleman wanted “something” to pick from and turned down the puppy. Lisa immediately accepted and the rest is history. Lisa had had several goldens in her life over the years, all cherished and all achieved high levels of obedience and/or agility. She had always had a goal of getting an OTCH and UDX. From the first moment that Rook came into Lisa’s life there was an unbreakable bond between them. Rook loved his “aunties” all of them, but Lisa hung the moon and stars in that boy’s eyes. He looked at her with a smile always and worked at her side no matter the ask. He was animated, precise in his movements, and driven without being over the top.

I remember when Lisa brought Rook out in Novice, at SOTC. There were many eyes on the team, and a lot of whispering about how amazing Rook was doing. It seemed everyone in the building was watching the new team on the scene, stealing the show from the “usual suspects”. It wasn’t long before Rook was earning High in Trial status and turning heads in the Open and Utility rings. Rook garnered many High in Trials and High Combined honors.

Team Rook achieved that goal of getting an OTCH, completing the needed requirements for the title in the middle of Covid. Along the way to the coveted OTCH, came the UDX, and 5 more to sweeten the pot, and Obedience Master titles. The Chess Master, indeed! Rook Excelled in Rally, trying all of Lisa’s courses before she used them for judging, prancing beside her with flair. Rook and Lisa were invited multiple times to the prestigious National Obedience Championship (NOC), improving each time at the event. The NOC is like no other event, with 8 rings, 2-3 exercises in each ring, a mix of Open and Utility exercises. The dogs move in and out of the rings sometime with little or no break or warm up between. It takes a special dog to be able to manage that environment and perform at the top of their game. I was awestruck getting to watch them dance on TV, watching the livestream of the event.

Rook loved agility, but nothing tripped his trigger quite as much as bird work. Lisa once commented that her OTCH dog suddenly forgot what heel and stay were with the sound of gunfire, duck calls and ducks being shot into the air. The quintessential Golden Retriever, Rook excelled at all he was asked to do and did it all with a smile.

Rook seemed to know that at 8 weeks when he came home, he was needed to heal a heart that had lost much in life. As anyone with a Cancer diagnosis, Lisa fought to heal her body. Rook was just what the doctor ordered to heal her heart. Soft eyes that stared directly into her eyes, a plush coat to rub her face in, and a connection that could not be broken.

Rook, at 9 years of age was diagnosed with an all-too-common Golden Retriever cancer, Hemangiosarcoma. It seemingly came out of nowhere, with him performing at an obedience trial just days before the devastating diagnosis. Cancer takes our dogs far too soon. Rook did much in his short life, touching all who met him. He was and will always be a shooting star among ordinary dogs. Earning his wings far too soon but leaving nothing on the table. He gave his all in everything he did. Rook is and will always be missed.

Nominated by Tammy Snyder

Photos from the 2024 Awards Dinner

Photos by Toni Linder





Turkey Trot Fit Dog Walk in November 2024

Pictured is: Toni Linder and Briana Linder with their dog, **Sophie Mae.**



WIZARD OF ID HART, MASTROIANNI & PARKER





The Golden Retriever Club of Central NY
is proud to present a Golden Retriever
Grooming Seminar

Presented by Beth Durand
of Rustic Golden Retrievers.

Saturday 2/22/25 @10:00 am

Star Canine Training
6 Adler Drive
East Syracuse, NY 13057

Program details:

Max of 12 working teams and 8 auditors

Lunch will be provided

Crates are available. Bring your own chair, and grooming table, Grooming supplies

Cost:

Working Spots: GRCCNY members: \$125 Non-Members: \$150

Auditing Spots: \$65

Mail to:

Golden Retriever Club of CNY

PO Box 2812

Syracuse, NY 13220

E-mail Lynn Coates at lynn.coates11@gmail.com

Registration deadline is Feb 15, 2025

Name:

Phone Number:(____)_____ Email: _____

Dog's call name:

GRCNY member? (circle one) Yes No

Working spot? _____ Audit spot? _____



Golden Retriever Club of Central New York Inc.
PO Box 2812
Syracuse, NY 13220-2812

Change Service Requested



Upcoming Events



February

22 **Grooming Seminar**

March

29 **Specialty**

April

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

June

20-21 **Scent Work Clinic**