

Paws to Dance



The Newsletter of the Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc.
May 2019



The Payoff

By Janet Dayton

Being an instructor is hard; not hard like losing a loved one or dealing with one of life's curve balls or responsibilities and obligations, but hard in its own way.

It's hard coming up with lessons, let alone meaningful productive lessons. It's hard just going to class after a long week at work. It's hard being enthusiastic even when I don't feel like it. It's hard staying positive, to guide and push without hurting feelings and egos. It's hard to be honest at times; to rein in and at the same time push forward. It's hard to direct and not take over. It's hard sometimes to convey to the human how amazing the dog is and what an incredible team they make. It's hard to remain joyful in spite of having lost the joy myself. It's hard to critique without being hurtful, yet stay honest. It's hard to guide without taking over. It's hard to let the mistakes happen so the lesson can be learned. It's hard to let go of some of the decisions made. It's hard to let them sink when I know they can swim. It's hard to share my energy when my dog and I need it too. It's hard to exude confidence when I feel less than confident. It's hard to encourage even though I am discouraged. It's hard when commitment is lax. It's hard to be polite when I want to yell. It's hard when a team with so much potential decides to quit.

It is hard standing on the sidelines as the team enters the performance space. I want them to be successful. I am with the team from the first step of that long walk to the judges' bow, to every footfall, to every beat of music, to that final note and bow. I know how hard it is to be in that space and I also know how special and awesome it can be.

So what's the payoff for all this hard stuff?

At times I am in awe of the beauty I see in a team that we, Leila and I, have nurtured and helped hone. I get to be part of an experience that at times transcends the physical. I get to be there when "it" clicks and the Ah-ha moments happen. I get to witness the bond between human and canine develop and grow stronger as they journey together. I get to watch a team learn, develop, grow, and mature.

I get to be there when a team comes into its own. That is what happened at our titling event.

I competed against one of my students. Bridget and Lava presented an astounding performance. It was magic. They took the class and all the prizes on Sunday. The student surpassed the teacher. I was proud my student became more than me, the teacher. What an honor to stand next to my student and friend and share in their accomplishment and success. In a way they were mine too. It meant more than my own

successes and accomplishments. Whatever I have said, shown, shared, suggested resonated with Bridget and Lava. The communication was sound. They succeeded and so did I. I was so caught up in their moment I didn't realize I missed earning one of my goals by one point, but it didn't matter. I saw their joy and shared in it.

That was my profit, my reward, my retribution. Their success was my payoff.

A lot of "nice" happened that weekend. Congratulations to each of you for participating at our titling event. Whether you qualified or not I am proud of your efforts and perseverance and proud each of you honored your dogs. I hope you have learned something from me. I know I have learned from each of you. Thanks for going on this journey and thanks for allowing me to tag along.



Dogwork evolution

By Bridget Telencio & Lava

Lava and I began our CFF career in the fall of 2014. We started with a class at Canine Affair with Janet Dayton and Leila Widgren. The class provided us with a foundation of concepts and movement to begin creating a routine. During the winter we worked on choreography and decided to put on a show at the training center in spring of 2015. While we worked at class, we had to find music that would suit with her. The music I chose for her Level II performance was the theme to Doctor Who. It is an eclectic piece and we worried about how the judges would react to it, but I decided to give it a try. Show day came in May of 2015 and I have never been so nervous in all my years of showing in obedience, agility and other

dog sports. I never understood people who were nervous to go into the ring but on this day, I understood! Lava and I performed well, and she earned her Level 2 title and received nice marks. That day we also had a team entry with a group of four dogs one of them being my dalmatian Lance. The performance was fun, and we did well, but we missed a title by 1 Point!!

After the first show we decided to get ready for Level III. We attended more classes and searched for music. This was of course a harder level and we ran into some challenges along the way. Lava is very pushy, and she remembers a routine quickly, so she is hard to keep at the correct pace. When she gets frustrated with me, she barks. This was our issue when we entered level three in May 2016. We did not pass, but we were given a lot of encouragement to keep going. Lava has all the skills but just needs time to figure out how I need her to use them.

Now on to 2017, we always seem to do our show end of April or May so for the winter we worked on backing, laterals and just concepts in general. We tried not to put the whole performance together and just worked on pieces of it. Janet and Leila showed the class how to build the relationship with the dog and how to move in the space. Lava and I grew as a team, learning more and improving our relationship. We still struggled with who was going to lead the dance, but we seemed to come to an understanding. The show day for 2017 came and I was again a nervous wreck. We did our Level III routine again. I tend to try to find songs that have words and then search for an instrumental version because, while I am out on the floor, I like to sing the words in my head to calm my nerves. Lava and I earned our Level III title at this trial and I was so happy she only barked a few times!

In 2018, I should have been preparing for a Level IV. I had even chosen the music, but I just had so many things going on with other sports in which we compete, that I decided not to overwhelm myself and just do a brace routine with Lava and my other Belgian, London. The thinking being that our brace is a level two and would be easier and less stressful. Boy was I ever wrong! Working two dogs was so very challenging and just trying to keep them from running off and playing was even more so. Many of the things that happened in that routine happened very organically while we worked in class and Janet and Leila watched and would say 'oh do that again. That's cool' or 'I don't like the way that looks try it another way.' It is great to have good instructors and I am thankful to them for all the help they have given me over the years. We performed our brace and we qualified on both days, earning our title and the Brightluck Brace Award. I was very proud of my dogs that weekend. They worked so well together, and I look forward to trying another brace soon.

Now for 2019. The year after the 2018 show was busy. Busy training other sports, and DogWork was not a goal this year. I was working Lava and London hard in training for Mondioring, busy with more responsibilities at my job and teaching 4 obedience classes at Canine Affair. In the winter of 2019, I went back to agility with Lava and Janet Dayton and I drove together. It's an hour drive there and back, so we had lots of time to talk and plan. She convinced me that I should come out and work on the choreography that we began to build for Lava a year before. So, I went out to train one night and we set our choreography. A week later we polished it up and the following week we had a performance. I am thankful to Diana Simpson who recorded the routine; it helped me remember everything we had planned. So, our practices consisted of working on laterals and backing, and I rarely did things in order. I think I may have found

the trick to our team! Less routine practice more just basic obedience, pivots and laterals and backing at random times. We came back from vacation Tuesday, cleaned the building on Thursday, and had open floor time on Friday before our event. I practiced one last time, for timing, and knowing where to do what. Saturday came and again we were nervous, but I felt ready. Lava started well but, on the lateral she began to whine and bark, then started to chase her tail which is her stressor. I told her no leave it and she snapped out of it! We continued on and we qualified, titled, and won the class! On Sunday I was just going out to have fun and I think my relaxed behavior helped Lava perform beautifully. She hit all her marks and did great pivots. I was so proud of her! When scores came out, she won everything! The Tennille Artistic Challenge Trophy, The Sally Kirschenman Award and The North Coast Canine Freestyle Award. This dog is a dream and I am so thankful for her every day. Thank you to our judges and thank you our instructors and to everyone in our guild, who help along the way. You guys helped more than you realize. (Her score of 89 also constituted a leg toward a Championship.) Next on to North Carolina to try for another.



L to R: Bridget Telencio with Lava, Judges Betty Swenson and Julia Gregory



**Canine Freestyle Federation
North Coast Guild Titling Events
Saturday May 18, 2019**

The True Grit Award

The True Grit Award is presented to those practitioners of DogWork who have shown outstanding persistence and good sportsmanship.

These characteristics, demonstrated over time, enrich and beautify our sport.

The physical token of our esteem is a pearl necklace. A pearl is also the product of a piece of grit introduced into a humble mollusk.

Patiently and without anger, the mollusk coats the irritating grain of sand with layer after layer of the same lovely, opalescent substance that lines its shell.

The final outcome is an object of great value and beauty. In much the same way, through your demonstration of patient and cheerful persistence,

you have brought honor and beauty to our sport. We salute you!

Marian Hardy

PPPPPPP

New Tracking Dog Excellent



Betty Swenson and Vickie with the track layer (Janet Dayton) and Tracking Judges at Dalmatian Club of America, Wellington, Ohio. tracking trail earlier this month. Congratulations!!

Level IIA

First Place Sherry Gedeon's Bernese Mountain Dog Hidn Oaks I Am the Master of My Fate earned a Level II Patch

Second Place Jim Keim's Border Collie Rival's Zinger earned a Level II Patch

Level IIB

First Place Marian Hardy's Poodle(silver) Denjo's Silver Dust On Linwin earned a Level II Patch and a NEW TITLE

Level III

First Place Julia Gregory's All American Wildhaven's Nina de Milo earned a Level III Patch and a NEW TITLE

Second Place Alison DeBroux's Shetland Sheepdog Quincy earned a Level III Patch and a NEW TITLE

Third Place Diana Simpson's Greyhound Willow earned a Level III Patch

Level III Team

First Place Diana Simpson's Greyhound Willow and

Janet Dayton's Greyhound Lark Earned a NEW TITLE

Level IV

First Place Bridget Telencio's Belgian Tervuren G'Lava Du Fosseret earned a Level IV Patch and a NEW TITLE

Second Place Janet Dayton's Greyhound Lark

Third Place Leila Widgren's Standard Poodle De La Passion Charlemagne I Hope You Dance

IV FEO

Wendy Ely's Belgian Tervuren GCM Chateau Blanc More Coyote Music

North Coast Canine Freestylers Award

(highest teamwork score in regular class)

Julia Gregory's All American Wildhaven's
Nina de Milo

Highest Artistic Score

Julia Gregory's All American Wildhaven's
Nina de Milo

Sally Kirschenman Award

Julia Gregory's All American Wildhaven's
Nina de Milo

IN THE MOMENT

Pass/Fail class

Pass Betty Swenson & her Border Collie
TBC Seren

Pass Julia Gregory & her All American
Wildhaven's Nina de Milo

Pass Marian Hardy's Poodle(silver)
Denjo's Silver Dust On Linwin

Sunday May 19, 2019

Level IIA

First Place Sherry Gedeon's Bernese
Mountain Dog Hidn Oaks I Am the Master of
My Fate

Second Place Jim Keim's Border Collie
Rival's Zinger

Level IIB

First Place Marian Hardy's Poodle(silver)
Denjo's Silver Dust On Linwin

Level III

First Place Diana Simpson's Greyhound
Willow earned a Level III TITLE

Second Place Alison DeBroux's Shetland
Sheepdog Quincy

Level III Team

First Place Diana Simpson's Greyhound
Willow and
Janet Dayton's Greyhound Lark

Level IV

First Place Bridget Telencio's Belgian
Tervuren G'Lava Du Fosseret

Second Place Gaea Mitchel's Rottweiler
Chubasco Lyra Fianna

Third Place Janet Dayton's Greyhound Lark

Fourth Place Leila Widgren's Standard
Poodle De La Passion Charlemagne I Hope
You Dance

IV FEO

Wendy Ely's Belgian Tervuren GCM
Chateau Blanc More Coyote Music

North Coast Canine Freestylers Award

(highest teamwork score in regular class)

Bridget Telencio's Belgian Tervuren G'Lava
Du Fosseret

Highest Artistic Score

Bridget Telencio's Belgian Tervuren G'Lava
Du Fosseret

Sally Kirschenman Award

Bridget Telencio's Belgian Tervuren G'Lava
Du Fosseret

The event was held at the Canine Affair
Center in Chesterland, OH. The judges were
Julia Gregory, Gaea Mitchel and Betty
Swenson. A huge thank you goes out to
members of the North Coast Canine
Freestylers that help put on this event.



Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild

By Gaea Mitchel

The guild continues to meet
quarterly, and to offer classes monthly. Once
again there is a great deal of planning in
motion, in conjunction with Sirius Guild, for
the November Titling Event to be held in
Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Stay tuned
for dates and other details.

Joan Morace Tennille

8/5/1932 – 2/8/2019

“So perhaps this is her final lesson to us all. While our memories of loved one’s past will not be forgotten, she would want us to look forward to the future, planting our gardens for the spring, enjoying the blooms and fragrances of summer and the color and rejuvenation of autumn, and then to start the cycle afresh each and every year.”

Daryl Wickstrom, Joan’s Son



Remember Me Hosta

Emerging leaves are bright yellow with a smoky green edge. Early in summer, the leaves transform to snow white with a narrow edge of blue green.

Apt for a garden of remembrance.

Midsummer lavender flowers.

Height 15” Spacing 20” Zones 3-8

Grown at *Bluestone Perennials*

(bluestoneperennials.com), a favorite place for Joan to visit while on the North Coast.

Plant this *Remember Me Hosta*, enjoy it, and savor how Joan gave us this gift of CanineFreestyle DogWork® where we start the cycle afresh with each new dog, each new handler, each new presentation, each new day, and each and every year.

Given by the
North Coast Canine Freestylers

The card above was in all the Hosta given out by the North Coast Guild

**North Coast Canine Freestylers
Guild**



By Alison DeBroux

By all accounts, the North Coast Freestylers' Titling Event, held May 18-19 in Chesterland, OH, was a success. The weather was cool but sunny which kept the venue comfortable for dogs and handlers alike.

This show was dedicated to Joan Tennille. Joan was an avid gardener, and in her memory, the North Coast Freestylers provided each attendee with a “Remember Me Hosta” from Bluestone Perennials, one of Joan's favorite places to visit while on the North Coast. (Editor’s note: Let no one doubt that this guild is possessed of inspiration and creativity. Every time I see a “Remember Me” hosta I will think of Joan, especially in my own garden.)

Thank you to our judges, volunteers, and friends. Judges for this event were Betty Swenson, Gaea Mitchel and Julia Gregory. Show staff were Jim Moore on sound and Cameron Foster on video. Carl Tennille handled scoring. Special thanks to Janet Dayton, Leila Widgren and Dianna Simpson, whose tireless attention to detail made this event a success.

Congratulations to all our winners! The highest scoring team on Saturday was Julia Gregory and her All-American, Nina. On Sunday, Bridget Telencio and her Belgian Tervuren, Lava, took the highest honors. The new True Grit Award went to Marian Hardy of Rockville, MD

A special congratulations to Jim Keim and his 12-year-old Border Collie, Zinger. Jim is our newest Guild member. Though they didn't qualify, Jim and Zinger put together and performed a very respectable routine with less than two months of Freestyle under their belts.

The North Coast Canine Freestylers Guild is planning for another year of DogWork and fun with our dogs. We hope you will too, and join us next year for another great event on the North Coast!



Mary Sullivan

Sirius Guild is approaching the time when many members take vacations or move to a second home for the summer. We all, however, look forward to November 2019's trials co-chaired with the North Carolina Guild. To that end, we are finalizing music or creating routines for fall. Wendy Ely and Marion Hardy participated in Ohio's May events. Both were impressed with the warmth they received from the Ohio guild and participants. Wendy showed Tenor as a Level IV FEO, receiving many compliments. Marion earned her Level II title with toy poodle, Dusty!

Look for upcoming news about a new show class for inexperienced handlers and dogs who want some ring experience without having to be judged. The Board has approved it and Sirius Guild is working out the details. North Carolina is also working on a possible new class called Presentation Heeling. More news to come on both classes.

And, now, a personal plea from me, echoed by all Sirius Guild members. We have recently lost several guilds and associated members. Losing Joan is a huge blow to us all. She was the spark and the fuel that kept our sport burning brightly. I know one of her biggest worries--if not *the* biggest--was that CFF would fall apart without her. Let's not let that happen. All of us have been her students, either directly or by learning from someone Joan taught. We CAN carry the torch forward, which would both please and honor Joan. We need more members and especially new students and judges. Please think of how we can recruit to meet these needs. If you've dropped out of CFF and still read this newsletter, please consider rejoining and participating again. Anyone with ideas for attracting new people should write Gaea so she can publicize these ideas. With your help, we can keep our sport going and Joan's presence and memory alive.

Canis Major Guild

By Julia Gregory

Chattanooga class nails demo

At the regular meeting of the Obedience Club of Chattanooga, the January beginning DogWork class gave a demo. After only six classes, these dog/handler teams were able to show phrases that expressed something about the dog and showed the teamwork we all hope for. Fay Taylor and her Chinese Crested, Meg, showed smoothness in their animated forward movement. Carol Wetzel and her Doberman, Duke, showed off his noble, classical lines and his excellent attention. Instructor, Julia Gregory and her All American, Nina, revisited their Level II performance in which "sassy" was the name of the game. This demo generated a few more registrations in the June DogWork class which is looking promising. We hope to demo at the Chattanooga Kennel Club's all-breed show in September.



**Carol
and Duke**



**Faye
and Meg**



**Julia
and Nina**



**Paws to Dance
c/o Gaea Mitchel
489 Dulcimer Ln
Waynesville NC 28786**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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