



The Scoop

Spring 2022 Newsletter



Letter from the President:

The hints of spring are here and daylight savings time gave us back longer evenings to be outdoors. Late snows can still surprise us, but our minds have turned to spring. The maple trees are tapped at the nursery and our ponds are short a few muskrats with those traps now removed. Spring is officially around the corner. Our first training day is March 27 out at Crooked Creek, and the weather is anyone's guess – hopefully sunshine.

For many, thoughts may have turned toward spring training the night of January's annual dinner held this year at the E.O.U.V. Club. Although it was a more lightly attended dinner than past years, it was a wonderful evening with good conversation and fun. The raffle featured about 40 baskets ranging from clothing (Sitka Jacket, Carhart vest) to training (Big John Boom Stick, huge baskets of Bird Dog Product Bumpers and training items, a pop-up canopy) to fun and comfort (restaurant gift certificates, wine baskets, a lush boudoir basket) to plain practical (dog food and BP gas gift card).

In planning our 2022 calendar we made one significant change, to move the flyer day up in the calendar so that we have that practice ahead of the Midwest season on May 22nd at the nursery.

We also continue to work on the nursery funding project with the partnership of Jon Kittredge and Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Our grant focus has shifted from conservation to restoration, and we are applied for H2Ohio funds. More details in the newsletter.

Just as a reminder, stay on the roads at the nursery and respect the spring mud! The mud attempts to claim a vehicle every year. See you and your retrievers soon!

Best Regards,
Cyndi Poveda
President

Thank You and Welcome!

BRC is appreciative to our outgoing Board members, Jim Buckley, who served two terms and Kathy Heintel, who most recently completed one term. We are ever appreciative for their volunteering to serve the club.

Welcome to Randy Reynolds and Jimmy Rogers whose term on the Board began with our annual meeting.

Congratulations!

Annually, we recognize members who make an impact. The AKC Sportsmanship Award give special recognition to individuals who have made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs and who have been an active and valued member. This year we recognized Jimmy Rodgers and his contribution to the club and to retriever sports. Always willing to chip in and help with tests, he is a regular at set-up day, happily loans his 4-wheeler and is around late to help put up the equipment. Not to mention that while training on the property between tests, he is always willing to help a member.

This year's Bob Reckart Award, recognizing the member who most contributed to the club during the year, went to Jim Domo. This was not Jim's first nomination. This will be the third season Jim will be coordinating hunt test volunteers, and while he started with just the fall test, serving as chairman, too, he also picked up test volunteers. Jim certainly earned the award.

Speaking of awards, if you requested a performance award for new titles and were not able to pick that up at the dinner, please contact me to arrange a time to pick up at a training day or otherwise. CyndiPoveda@outlook.com or 440-539-0633.

Nursery Property Update

At our dinner at the E.V.O.U Club, I recapped our efforts to secure grants to acquire the training grounds. Since the process has been on going for several years, I will provide the same here.

The club has been fortunate to use the training grounds for many, many years. But now, the property is in transition and to be sold. We have hoped to find a way to acquire the property and in 2017 started working with Jon Kittredge, the land owner, and Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC).

At the time, it was thought the cold-water stream that runs through the wooded part of the property, along with the wetlands, would be attractive for conservation. As part of the application process, WRLC also did plant and bat surveys.

Our first application to Ohio EPA results were encouraging. We received half of our grant ask amount, contingent on resolving some lease issues with the existing gas wells on the property. Half was disappointing in that it was only half, and did not support the plan for a matching grant for the remainder of the funds. With that application cycle, we learned that to a certain extent the project's fortune in terms of grant application success is somewhat a function of the competition for funding. So, in 2019 we ranked but below where the project needed for the requested amount of funding.

In 2020, we gave it another go. This time, with the backdrop of the pandemic, we were rejected outright due to the gas well leases on the property. No funding was being extended on a contingent basis, and ours was not a shovel ready project.

In 2021, BRC began leasing the property in exchange for more grant application time. Last year, we again applied to Ohio EPA again was met with rejection due to the gas wells. With the realization we are unable to resolve the gas well problem to the satisfaction of Ohio EPA, our strategy has made a pivot from straight conservation to seeking a grant emphasizing restoration.

The restoration project on that property is the removal of the dam on the Rock Creek side of the property and restoration of the stream bed and wetlands that existed before the dam was built. Application to H2Ohio was made in February by WRLC jointly with Chagrin River Watershed, an organization that brings restoration expertise.

The contract to find funding expires spring 2024. We continue to look for additional sources of funding as we await the decision on our current grant. The board is also exploring ways to fund raise / structure an outright purchase of the property. If you have any thoughts on this, we are open to strategic suggestions.

We remain ever grateful for Mr. Kittredge's efforts and generosity in allowing BRC to pursue purchase of the property.

Board of Directors:

Cyndi Poveda, President

David Philips, Vice President

Tim Daily, Secretary

Bill Skeels, Treasurer

Trustees: Jim Domo, Mike McFarland, Tara Perby, Randy Reynolds, Jimmy Rodgers and Joe Ricupero.

Suggestions/Comments/Questions:

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