

MGDA

The Manitoba Gun Dog Association Newsletter



In this Issue:

- CLUB NEWS
- SAFETY TIP
- AND MUCH MORE

Editor's Corner

Trialing and Test season starts shortly, good luck to everyone, most of all have fun with your dogs and fellow competitors.

There is an excellent article on judging in the most recent Retriever News by John Pampy, if you get a chance it is worth the read.

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: Golden is Flynn, Lab is Coupe, two of our newest members owned by Medie Robinson



“Got any books on dog training?”

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS:

Marilyn Bayrak

Bob Norris

Matt Mutcherson

James Oake

Sue Taylor

Colin McMichael

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sadly on May 11th a lifetime member of our club Fred Benjaminson passed away at our club grounds in Balmoral Mb.

At the time Fred was doing what he loved best, working to make our grounds better than ever.

Fred had been in our club for over 40 years and has held virtually every position several times over.

He was a tireless worker on behalf of our club, always willing to lend a hand, be it helping a member with their dog, or cutting bush.

No one knew more about proper policy or procedure than Fred and every time there was a concern, the club relied on his knowledge.

An awesome judge and training partner, he will be sorely missed by all of us.



Fred,

This is just a short note to say how much I am going to miss you.

You were always there for me, you gave me the proverbial shirt off your back when I needed it,

You knew my wife, before I did, you watched my daughter grow, showing her how to throw a bird,

In the rain, at age 4.

I watched your lovely daughters grow up into proud successful women.

We drank a lot of rum together over the years and I was looking to have a few more, training dogs with you, my best friend, but sadly that was not to be .

Now you are up in heaven having a wine with Sharron .

As the Irish say, May you always walk in sunshine ,may you never want for more, may happiness be with you now, and bless you evermore..

Rest in Peace my friend...

Colin

It's The Moments That Will Count!

I've yet to meet a miserable dog trainer because he dislikes training dogs. I guess that kind of implies I've met miserable trainers though....hmmm, can't recall where was I going with that? Oh, Yes....the moments! I have, and I know you have too, met the trainer who's hating a training moment because training isn't going right, and the dog's being an ass. This in turn has caused us to make a harsh correction and surely corrections that were not necessary. We have all done it whether we admit it or not.

But is the moment really that bad, should we be laying into our team mate from frustration? I really doubt the dogs are just trying to ruffle our feathers, although clear to us, probably not to the fur baby. Would we do it if we really thought this could be counterproductive? Some of us, myself included, perhaps should sit back and think, "Hmmm, is this the moment to be a better coach?" "Here is an opportunity to truly make the best of my love for this game!" I know I'm to blame for letting expectations get the better of me, which is exactly why I thought I should write about it. As we try to grow as handlers we will make mistakes, all of us. Also, Mr. Larry Baker said he had a blank spot in the newsletter and wished he could find some nonsense to just fill it up.....Voila Handlers!

Making the required correction has been the most challenging thing about training dogs for me. I am admitting a weakness, print this off, some MGDA member will need to remind me of this at some point. Keeping relaxed, making good corrections, and trust me, I'm challenged with this regularly, can be very difficult. I still stumble, but I think I see it when I do more often than not. I have many experienced MGDA members to thank for that. Especially when things aren't going my way and I need to fix it....Immediately! As a result, the dogs don't get to have their moment which is under our control as handlers. I know one thing, I damn well prefer to teach them everything I can while they are training, and we all do. After all, each and every one of us do this because we love it and love our dogs. I think sometimes we forget the best thing about training, the challenge, the moment. Sure, winning or a pass is great, but the ribbons won't matter on your last days here, the dog and those significant moments will. Best remembered as a smile and a new challenge to both improve when things could be going better. That's how I want to see it. So are we taking the right line on the path of this journey, certainly we all can relate to this. I think I continually get caught up in wanting so much from my dogs I forget this is their moment too. Once I did sit back, I thought, am I being the leader I want to be for the dogs. Am I helping my dogs make the best of their time? I should be! It's helped plenty! Don't ask my dogs that though. Why do it if you don't make the best of it. Those of you who know me know no matter what I do, I will not always be the leader I want to be, as my middle aged gun dog considers me her best employee. But that's for another conversation.

I thought I'd write to the club, give my experience, I spent a long time, being too worked up as a young trainer. Still am at times, but making progress which is exciting. Too over the moon about perfection, which our senior members know, leads to one thing, corrections that are not required at that time. I'm not writing to say we all need to put our collars away, but I'm writing to say, I could have made better decisions just by trying to determine if the correction is obvious to the dog. I especially could have spoken to the experienced, we have plenty of them here, take advantage. And lastly, don't forget to be a teacher. Don't leave your patience at home, and if you have any extra, I'll buy it off you because it's worth gold!

Everything in life, is temporary....much shorter for our teammates unfortunately. I hope next time our dogs challenge us, we take a step back and think, can I show him/her what I want without hitting buttons. I think only then will we will be in moment, and only then will you have done your best as a coach, and as a lifelong teammate. Surely plenty of ribbons will follow. Of course I mean that figuratively, don't really step back because you're going to cause your dog to move on the line., break..., maybe head swing, and you're going to completely freak out, it COULD be bad..... Hope you all can relate and grow, Best Wishes Handlers!

James
2nd VP MGDA

MGDA

First work party of the year...

Well, we got a lot done, but yes, there is a lot more to do if we want to keep our grounds in good shape.

The water tower is filled, the club house cleaned and ready for the first trial.

Outhouses have been pumped out and cleaned

Pot holes on the main and west side road filled (still a few more to do).

Lots of deadfall cleared.

We have opened up some new areas at the 2 island pond, with some more work to be done with equipment on both the 2 island pond and the north east pond.

Lots of tullie cutting completed on the west side as well as the west side of the main road, near ramp no 1 and 2.

There are plans for another work party before the spring trial, so keep that in mind.

Focus will be on brush clearing , cleanup, foxtail and tullie cutting..

So many thanks to all those how came out to help your club.



COULD MY SUGAR FREE GUM KILL MY DOG?

Xylitol is a “natural” sugar substitute that is popular because it has less calories than sugar, has a low glycemic index and has antimicrobial properties against oral bacteria. These properties have led to xylitol being widely used in sugar free gums, candies, peanut butter, protein powders, drink powders and baked goods. That is great for us, but potentially very dangerous for our dogs. **It is important to realize that ingesting xylitol can kill your dog.**

The immediate effect when a dog ingests a toxic dose of xylitol is that they develop extremely low blood sugar (hypoglycemia). This can occur within 20 minutes or can be a delayed response if the food that they ate is absorbed slowly. Signs of low blood sugar start with vomiting and then progress to weakness, incoordination, collapse and seizures. The other very severe toxicity seen with xylitol ingestion in dogs is liver damage - usually requiring a higher dose of xylitol than that needed to cause low blood sugar - but not all dogs with serious liver damage will have shown signs of hypoglycemia first. Liver damage from xylitol can cause a few weeks of poor appetite, vomiting and diarrhea or can cause complete liver failure resulting in icterus (yellow tissues), bleeding and death.

The amount of xylitol that must be eaten to cause toxicity is variable. Some flavors of some brands of gum (especially Orbit and Trident) have enough xylitol in each piece to poison a 10kg (22lb) dog. The most serious problems are seen when dogs like our always hungry Labrador retrievers eat an entire package or container of gum, a dozen xylitol-containing cookies or a few packets of xylitol sugar substitute (4 one gram packets could kill a Labrador retriever).

It is important that dog owners realize the potential toxicity of xylitol and either avoid purchasing products containing xylitol or at least keep them away from your dog. If your dog does eat a product containing xylitol take your dog and the packaging for the product to your vet right away so they can determine if your dog ingested a toxic dose, induce vomiting if necessary, and initiate emergency medical treatment.

Most owners of dogs who die from xylitol intoxication had no idea that this potential poison was in their home. **Be aware!**

Look what happens when we cut down too many trees. Global warming is one thing, but check out the picture below to see what is happening if we continue to clear our forests. We have to stop cutting down trees! This is getting really serious!



PLEASE PAY YOUR CLUB DUES

REGULAR MEMBER - \$100.00

SPOUSE - \$60.00

Executive Committee

President Colin McMichael
Past President Matt Mutcheson
1st VP Bob Norris
2nd VP James Oake
Secretary Fred Benjaminson
Treasurer Carrie Whenham
Director Shaun Booth
Director Dewayne Hay
Director Geoff Plouffe
Director Keith Lovelace

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
WINTER 2018

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>