



THE WRITE DOG

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

Founded 1935

October/November 2004 Special Issue



Ch. Rhydowen Blue Daniel, aka "Danny", showing the world reach and drive. He is the love of our secretary Pat Santi and her mother, who are his breeders. Look for Danny with Mordecai on Goodnewsforpets.

Time to Vote for Nominating Committee

This information was supposed to go in the October 2004 issue but due to the vagaries of e-mail was unfortunately not included. According to our bylaws, if you want to run for the board, you need a signed petition to the secretary by November 1. See the full article on page 4.

Meanderings

“When Augustus came out on the porch the blue pigs were eating a rattlesnake -- not a very big one.” Larry McMurtry, Lonesome Dove

Opening Lines

My all-time favorite opening line is above. It makes me ask so many questions. Blue pigs? Eating a rattlesnake? Why? Ugh! But I had to go on. Who could stop after that lead? Fiction or non-fiction, books, stories or articles, we all want to entice the browser and keep a person reading our entire article. Many of us in DWAA write non-fiction, but NF doesn't need to be dull. We can start with a “grabber,” just as novelists do. The object is to entertain, educate, invoke discussion. And, of course, it doesn't hurt to be a good enough writer to have editors clamoring over our work.

Although I still might read a dust-dry piece on hypothyroidism, I'd enjoy it a lot more if the writing was livelier. I might finish it without having to read the same sentence three times while my mind wanders. Analogies help, as do case histories. But it's difficult to catch the browser's interest at all without an interesting first sentence.

Continuing the Hook

“My mother, Southern to the bone, once told me, ‘All Southern literature can be summed up in these words: “On the night the hogs ate Willie, Mama died when she heard what Daddy did to Sister.”’ She raised me up to be a Southern writer, but it wasn't easy.” Pat Conroy

Those pigs! They're all over the place. Unless the piece is a technical veterinary piece, we can keep the reader's interest with lines like, “Dr. T's three children grew up during the years he researched the cause of (you pick the malady).” This is a lot more interesting than “Dr. T. conducted research on (malady) from 1975-2000.”

We should write the piece we'd like to read. When I married, Ed taught me more about history in a few months than I ever learned in years of studying it. History books were really borrrrrrrrrrring back in the “olden” days. History was a matter of reading and memorizing dates and stats. I never knew that Benedict Arnold was a hero before he was a traitor or that there is a monument to him – or actually his wounded leg, as the monument erectors felt that was the only truly American part of him.

Although it's tacky to take something serious and make it a levity, it is possible to impart the information in a way to encourage the reader to continue to the end. Sentence structure can help to lighten the load. No more are we bound to strict codes about sentence fragments or never ending a sentence with “about.” How 'bout that? Two prepositions! (I'm sure my HS teacher, Miss Wildi, is rolling about. Pun intended.)

In addition, it's best to leave them wanting more on the subject. If it's a book, a hook to carry the reader on to the next chapter is vital. Although we don't all leave characters hanging over a cliff, ala soap operas, we can leave the reader with a warm feeling – or an inquiring mind, wanting to know more.

New York City on the Cheap

We promised you some advice on tackling NYC for the first time, or maybe the first time in a long time. Next month, our NY-savvy Vice President, Jan Mahood, is going to fill this column with places to go and people to see. In the meantime, I'll convey some secrets I've used to make the trip to Westminster – and DWAA -- less expensive than it could be. I have a credit card that gives me miles for every dollar spent, and I use it everywhere I spend more than \$3. It gives me a free trip to NY each year.

There **are** some fairly reasonable hotels located within walking distance of the Garden and the Southgate, where we hold our banquet and meeting. (BTW, it sure would be nice to see some new faces at the meeting!) Roommates halve the bill and double the fun!

The subway is located near the hotel and right underneath the Garden. It really is safe. Ask Amy Shojai who traveled it last year with a feather boa wrapped round her. And New Yorkers walk – a lot! Just bring comfy shoes.

Macy's always has outstanding sales going on during February if you can't resist spending money to save money. The museums have wonderful shows, including the Bill Secord gallery, always offering beautiful dog art.

NYC is the city of restaurants offering some of the best fare in the world. Yet you don't really have to eat at the truly scrumptious Tavern on the Green -- there are restaurants galore in Little Italy, Chinatown and more.

Eat a big meal at noon; it's often less expensive. Delis and coffee shops abound, seemingly 1-2 on every block. The Southgate (should you choose to be convenient or share a room) has kitchenettes in the suites where you can prepare a full meal if you wish.

One of my joys is the theater – If you stand in line at the TKTS booth, located at Broadway and 46th/47th Street (Times Square), you can buy discounted tickets for that same evening's (or matinee's) performance. Cash only!

Our dinner is discounted to members this year – thanks to **Fort Dodge** sponsoring it. We have a couple more possible sponsors standing in the wings to add more excitement. And then there are all those super sponsors of the Special Awards – you might actually go home richer than you came!

Of course, the richest experience is meeting and cheering your fellow members and letting us come to know you!



Nominating Committee for Board

At the end of July 2004, our Board elected a nominating committee of three (3) people. The people were Paul Glassner, Ida Estep, and Pat Santi. The following nominations have been selected by the committee.

President: Jan Mahood

Vice President: Ranny Green

Secretary: Pat Santi

Treasurer: Rue Chagoll

Class of 2006 Board of Governors: Darlene Arden and Mordecai Siegel

To fill Ranny Green's place for the Class of 2006: Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia

Chris Walkowicz automatically becomes President Emeritus.

According to our bylaws, any member in good standing may petition to run for a specific office if he or she sends by November 1 a signed petition by ten (10) members in good standing to the secretary. Remember that only professional status members can hold office and vote.

If there are other nominations from petitions, then on or about December 1 the Secretary will mail out a ballot to each voting member in good standing. If feasible, the newsletter can contain the ballot. All ballots received by December 31 will be delivered unopened to the annual meeting when three (3) members appointed by the President will count them.

Those nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected. If the election is uncontested, then no ballots need to be mailed.

Respectfully submitted:

Paul Glassner, Ida Estep, and Pat Santi

Fort Dodge to Sponsor 70th DWAA Banquet

Fort Dodge will be a major sponsor for our 70th DWAA banquet to be held on February 13th. On behalf of Fort Dodge, our members are grateful for their generous donation allowing us to discount the cost of the evening. Many thanks are extended to all of our sponsors.

We have received a donation from Schering-Plough Animal Health and from the Home-Again Pet Identification System, which will add wine and more to our banquet. The AKC will sponsor a cocktail party. The Pro Plan President's Award is sponsored by Pro Plan for the best entry among the Maxwell winners, our very own "Best in Show." The award consists of a plaque and a \$750 cash grant. Another sponsor is Pet Sitters International (PSI).

If you want to buy an ad, see information in the (first!) October 2004 newsletter and contact Pat Santi. Ads need to be placed by Dec. 15. If you could donate something to the silent auction, contact Jan Mahood.

Order your Westminster tickets online at www.westminsterkennelclub.org.

Raffle Tickets at February DWAA Meeting

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 6 for \$10.00. The prize is a giclée print donated by The Westminster Kennel Club (valued at \$495.00). The print is signed and numbered by artist Misha Lenn. The giclée technique is a method of digital printing that creates reproductions that are virtually indistinguishable from the originals. The proceeds from the raffle will benefit the DWAA Junior Education Scholarship for young people planning a dog-related career.

Tickets are available now. Please send tickets (printed below, copy as many as you'd like) and check to: Pat Santi, Secretary, 173 Union Road, Coatesville, PA 19320-1326

You do not have to be present to win.

Copy these raffle tickets

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

All members are invited to subscribe to the DWAA-PRO e-list, send a blank e-mail with no subject line and no signature to: DWAA-Pro-subscribe@yahoo.com

We discuss books, articles, anything pertaining to writing or DWAA. Members can create a profile to access files of samples -- book proposal, article query, reprint permission, co-author agreement, agent advice, tax tips, and so on. Members can also create their own files w/samples of their writing and photography.

NBC to Air Philadelphia Dog Show on Thanksgiving Again

NBC again lets the dogs out with the third annual telecast of "The National Dog Show Presented by Purina," a 2-hour special, hosted by John O'Hurley ("Seinfeld") for broadcast immediately following the live "Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade" on Thursday, Nov. 25 (12 noon-2 p.m. in all time zones). The dog show will be held a week earlier than it is televised. The three newest breeds in the AKC will be seen at this show. The addition of the Black Russian Terrier, the Neapolitan Mastiff and the Glen of Imaal Terrier means that the AKC now registers a total of 165 distinct breeds and varieties.

Roster Changes

New Members

Mara Borsun
Freelance/P
310 East 44th Street Apt. 1507
New York, NY 10017
212-370-9479
St2Angel@aol.com
Sponsors: Betty Liddick
& David Frei

Claire Koshar
Freelance/P
15318 Vinola Place
Montverde, FL 34756
407-469-2207
summerhill@intellistar.net
Sponsors: Dr. Alvin Grossman
& Martin Deeley

Gina Mireault
Freelance/P
852 Maggies Way
Waterbury Center, VT 05677
802-244-8121
fax: 802-244-4135
jmireault@aol.com
Sponsors: Darlene Arden
& Chris Walkowicz

Leslea Newman
Freelance/P
44 Day Avenue
Northampton, MA 01060
413-584-3865
fax: 413-584-1099
Lezel@aol.com
Sponsors: Chris Walkowicz
& Pat Santi

Changes:

Marilyn M. Miller
3 Woodridge Drive
North Hampton, NH 03862
(603) 379 - 2555

Alan Alford
MA, not CT!

Noemi C. Arthur
e-mail: Mija7171@verizon.net

Emelise Baughman
1206 S.F. Road
Phillips, NE 68865-2130
308-380-1925
e-mail: emeliseb@yahoo.com

Finding Online Plagiarizers

This website will help you find websites that have lifted material from your website. This service is free: at: <http://www.copyscape.com>. Thanks for Darlene Arden for finding and sharing this site.

Book Reviews by Jean Keating

Jean Keating graciously offered to review these two books. Your Newsletter Goddess is not keeping up well with the book reviews, so if you'd like to write some, contact her at Phyllis@globaldialog.com or 608.271.1763.

A New Owner's Guide to Papillons: Easy-to-read Information on Choosing, Raising, Training, and Maintaining Good Health in Your Papillon, by *Deborah Wood, TFH Publications*

Now here is a book that no Papillon lover should be without. If you're a new owner or a wannabe, or have had butterfly dogs for a long while, you still want this on your desk or bookshelf. In the first place it is beautifully written by a nationally acclaimed author, columnist and papillion lover.

The information is fresh, well described and artfully displayed on photographic quality pages. The color photos of papillons are dreamy. The index is handy. The table of contents affords speedy access to the vast amount of information and topics. The color highlighting of the many sections' titles make reading and rereading a breeze; even the breed standard is easy to visualize.

Wood writes from experience and probably a lot of help from the two beautiful butterflies who appear with her in the photo on the back cover. This is no 'fill-in-the-blank' rendering of usual information about toy dogs with the names changed. These pages are specific information about my glorious breed told by a master writer who knows us well from having lived and loved several of my kind.

Grizz's Story - A Greater Courage, by Jo Helms

Grizz, a Siberian Husky, is stricken with cancer, which claims first a leg and finally his life. He shares the fight and the fears, the small battles won and the war lost as they battle. When love, strength, courage and modern veterinary science cannot win the war, Grizz turns the storytelling over to his human who vows to make his life, his courageous fight, and his story a shining symbol of hope and help to others.

This book is available only from the author at www.grizz.20megsfree.com. Proceeds go to the "Grizz and Friends" companion animal fund, a 501c3 fund at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine in Madison, WI [where your Newsletter Goddess' dog Fred was successfully treated for cancer]. It is an uplifting story of courage under fire, of the bonds of love that makes humans and us canines strong.

All rights reserved. No part of the publication may be reproduced, stored in, or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means whatsoever (electronic, mechanical, recording, or otherwise) without the prior written consent of DWAA and/or the author.

2004 OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Chris Walkowicz, 1396 265th St, Sherrard, IL 61281, 8533 – 309.754.8723 – walkoway.dogbooks@mchsi.com
Vice President — Jan Mahood, P.O. Box 612, Geneseo, NY 14454 585-243-1932 - dogrose@rochester.rr.com
Secretary – Pat Santi, 173 Union Road, Coatesville, PA 19320 – 610.384.2436 – Rhydowen@aol.com
Treasurer – Alan Alford, PO Box 377, Sudbury, MA 01776 – aialford@aol.com
President Emeritus – Mordecai Siegal, 135 Charles St., Apt 3G, New York, NY, 10014, 212.352.9765 – Mordecai@mordecai.com

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Class of 2007 – David Frei and Debra Eldredge
Class of 2006 – Ranny Green and Amy Fernandez
Class of 2005 – Ida Estep and Paul Glassner

Newsletter Editor/Goddess – Phyllis DeGioia, 4226 Beverly Road, Madison, WI 53711-3713, 608.271.1763,
Phyllis@globaldialog.com

(Please send all material for the newsletter to the Newsletter Editor)

DWAA Web Site: www.DWAA.org

When your address changes, or if you did not receive your newsletter or roster,
PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY for a copy. Pat Santi, contact information above.

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 953

Pat Santi
173 Union Road
Coatesville, PA 19320