



Dog Writers Association of America

# ruff DRAFTS

Spring 2012



Best Color Photograph  
DWAA 2011 Writing Contest

"Hope"  
By Allen Weinberg



#### Committees 2012-2013

**Banquet Committee**  
Pat Santi, Chair  
Marsha Pugh, Co-chair

**Budget and Finance Committee**  
Carmen Battaglia, Chair  
Ida Estep  
Sue Jeffries  
Marion Lane  
Marsha Pugh  
Pat Santi

**Bylaws Committee**  
Ida Estep, Chair  
Alan Alford  
Carmen Battaglia  
Patricia Cruz  
Pat Santi

**Contest Committee**  
Sue Jeffries, Chair  
Officers and Board

**Hall of Fame Committee**  
Patricia Cruz, Chair  
Alan Alford  
Robert McKowen

**Hall of Fame Criteria Committee**  
Pat Santi, Chair  
Joel Gavrielle-Gold  
Marsha Pugh

**Liaison with  
Cat Writers Association**  
Marion Lane

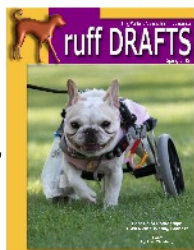
**Membership Committee**  
Marsha Pugh, Chair  
Bryna Comsky  
Su Ewing  
Patricia Kelly  
Marion Lane

**Public Education Committee**  
Connie Brittain  
Caroline Coile  
Marsha Pugh  
Pat Santi

#### On Our Cover

"Upon meeting Hope it was clear that while her 'wheels' would no doubt loom large in her photo, there was nothing about Hope that said, 'Feel sorry for me.' I think she believes those wheels are there to help her get places faster than other dogs. I wanted to make sure that came through in the photograph."

—Allen Weinberg



[www.dwaa.org](http://www.dwaa.org)

# EDITOR'S *Desk*



Larry & Marion, Red & Natasha

## Introducing My Husband

When I volunteered to edit *Ruff Drafts*, my first task was to find a graphic artist. I've always worked with an art department to handle the technical end.

"I can do this," said my husband, flipping through the pages of a back issue. Larry's experience in desktop publishing consisted of fooling around with graphics to amuse his friends. But he's fearless with computers and software...so why not? What could beat the convenience of having your art department sitting at the other end of the dining room table?

Larry banished me from the dining room the first day. "Go away until I have a question," he said. "I can't work with you hovering." So in my own house I e-mailed my husband the documents and photo files for the next issue. I embedded my instructions to Larry in the files, in red, so he couldn't miss them. I wrote things like, "This goes in the DWAA business section," or "Set this in two columns." But when Larry showed me his layouts, my instructions had been ignored. "I don't read those things," said Larry.

That first issue it was a toss-up which of us said (read shrieked) *never again* more often. All the fundamental differences between us were on display: planning vs. spontaneity, rules vs. exceptions, mind-numbing details vs. emotional highs. Still, when we assessed the final product, there was no blood on the pages. Workers at the printer's shop oohed and aahed. DWAA Members and the board praised the "new look." I'm not sure I told Larry, but I knew it was his work, not mine, that got their attention.

Last February at the annual awards banquet, the DWAA board issued a "certificate of appreciation" to Larry. Larry's not a member. No one's ever met him; some wondered if he even existed. Larry never owned a dog until he met me, but he said, "I can do this." And so he has.

*Marion*

## 2012/13 Newsletter Deadlines

Issue	Copy Due	Mail Date
Summer	May 15	June 15
Fall	September 1	October 1
Winter	December 1	January 1 (2013)
Spring	February 28 (2013)	March 15 (2013)



# PRESIDENT'S *Column*

## Annual Report

By **Carmen L. Battaglia, Ph.D.**

**D**uring 2011 DWAA has moved forward by dedicating our efforts toward serving writers, educators, the publishing industry and our readers. During the past year we have taken many steps to uphold the study and advancement of writing in an effort to remain competitive in a changing world. We strengthened our support for our successful writing contest and improved our management practices. One such example can be seen through the monthly conference calls of the board and their efforts to review projects and assignments. A new budget committee was established last year to develop an annual budget for the board's approval. This committee makes recommendations to strengthen our financial health. What is beginning to make a difference is our strategy to assist our committees and those who serve on them. We believe that one of the signs of a strong committee is the ability to bring significant ideas to the surface that work and in doing so energize the activities of the organization. Using this philosophy and approach we have improved as an organization. Another key to our success has been to build relationships with our sponsors, writers, publishers, editors and affiliate organizations.

The board continues to listen to comments and recommendations of its members which have resulted in a more responsive organization. Our website is more robust and responsive to our users with timely information that is useful and of a professional concern to our members. Timely updates and the offering of free links to our members help to connect them to others. We have listed our sponsors and the services they provide. The Forum is proving to be useful to writers who seek the advice and the experience of others.

We do, however live in a world of change and it is having its impact on our society. The changing nature of readers



has not gone unnoticed. Our society has become a place that requires us to live in a visual environment dominated by TV, text messaging, Facebook, Twitter and newsprint. What the public reads and understands influences how they react to issues, programs and agendas. Text messaging Facebook and Twitter all function like telegrams with transmissions which use unconnected phrases or sometimes a unique coding structure (R u up?). A worrisome trend among the younger generation shows there is a decline in newspaper circulation and book buying and a sluggish growth in educational attainment. One of the bright spots has been a continued use of public libraries and an increase in the amount of material being read. The concern of educators confirms that Americans are reading differently than in the past. They are reading more, but less in depth, with a preference to scan rather than reading for in-depth understanding. In short, Americans are reading to get briefed. This trend has major implications for business leaders, educators, writers and editors. The unintended consequences of scanning are yet to be realized.

I look forward to a brighter year with more success for our writers. 🐾



**Dog Writers Association of America**  
[www.dwaa.org](http://www.dwaa.org)

### Officers

**Carmen Battaglia, Ph.D., President**  
335 Westford Glen, Roswell, GA 30075  
(770) 998-3679, [cbattaglia@mindspring.com](mailto:cbattaglia@mindspring.com)

**Ida W. Estep, Esq., Vice President**  
1420 NC Hwy 98, Spring Hope, NC 27882  
(252) 478-6088, [iwestep@earthlink.net](mailto:iwestep@earthlink.net)

**Pat Santi, Secretary**  
173 Union Road, Coatesville, PA 19320  
(610) 384-2436, [rhydownen@aol.com](mailto:rhydownen@aol.com)

**Marsha M. Pugh, Treasurer**  
P.O. Box 787, Hughesville, MD 20637  
(301) 274-3435, [mmpugh@crosslink.net](mailto:mmpugh@crosslink.net)

**Ranny Green, Past President**  
4820 Tok A Lou Avenue N.E.,  
Tacoma, WA 98422  
(253) 927-4910, [rannygreen@hotmail.com](mailto:rannygreen@hotmail.com)

### Board of Governors

#### Class of 2013

**Alan Alford**  
365 Boston Post Road, Sudbury, MA 01776  
(978) 443-8387, [aialford@aol.com](mailto:aialford@aol.com)

**Joel Gavriele-Gold, Ph.D.**  
205 West 89th Street, Office 1A  
New York, New York 10024  
[Dr.JoelGold@gmail.com](mailto:Dr.JoelGold@gmail.com)

#### Class of 2014

**Caroline Coile, Ph.D.,**  
1263 145th Road, Live Oak, FL 32060  
(386) 842-5003, [ccoile@windstream.net](mailto:ccoile@windstream.net)

**Patricia Cruz**  
15 Shiloh Court, Coram, NY 11727  
(631) 928-1517, [lacruz928@optonline.net](mailto:lacruz928@optonline.net)

#### Class of 2015

**Bryna Comsky**  
565 Illinois Boulevard  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169  
(847) 885-8395, [bcomsky@aol.com](mailto:bcomsky@aol.com)

**Robert H. McKowen**  
297 West Main Street, Leola, PA 17540  
(717) 656-9300

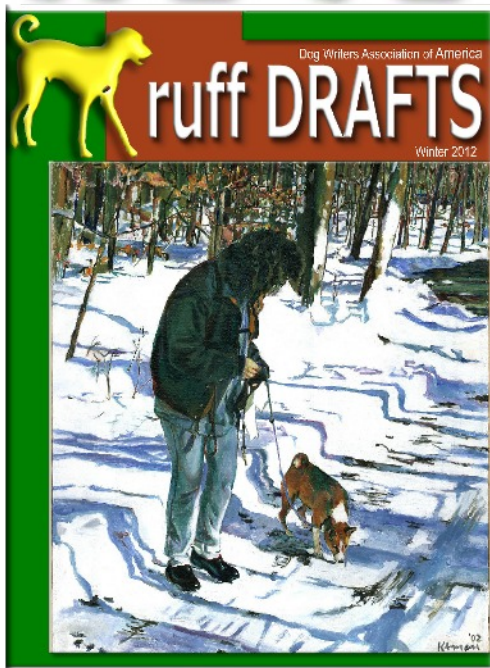
#### Newsletter Editor

**Marion S. Lane**  
5509 State Route 145, Cobleskill, NY 12043  
(518) 234-3450, [marionl@earthlink.net](mailto:marionl@earthlink.net)

#### Newsletter Design

**Larry White**  
[lbwhite618@earthlink.net](mailto:lbwhite618@earthlink.net)

# WE'VE GOT MAIL!



## Facebook, Anyone?

I love the Members News section of the newsletter. It is so motivating to see what others are accomplishing in the writing field and to keep in touch with other DWAA members around the globe. Has DWAA considered starting a Facebook page? I am a professional member of the Cat Writers Association, too, and I greatly enjoy their active Facebook page as interacting with other members and reading their articles and published works each day is wonderful!

--Stacey Ritz, Xenia, OH

## Wheaties for Dog Writers

Just finished reading *ruff DRAFTS* at breakfast. The newsletter's content and layout is the best ever. It is definitely the "Breakfast of Champions." I didn't realize it was available in color on the website. That's a knockout indeed!

--Carole Owen, Temple, TX

## After the Ball Was Over: Comments on the Annual Awards Banquet

Thank you for organizing such a lovely event. Of course, Dr. Dodds and I were so thrilled and honored to have won two awards! I look forward to seeing you next year!

--Diana Laverdure

Sue Jeffries, Pat Santi and Marsha Pugh—three wonderful ladies—dog lovers—who for two years now have made me feel very much at home. My heartfelt thanks to you all. It was a great trip!

—James Colasanti, Jr.

I just wanted to let you know that we thoroughly enjoyed the DWAA banquet. I hope to have some more potential members sending in their application. Also, we plan to submit more articles to the dog journals. Many, many thanks.

—Barb Magera and Elaine Mitchell

## Sound Off!



Send your Letters to the Editor by e-mail ([marionl@earthlink.net](mailto:marionl@earthlink.net)) or by U.S. Mail to Marion Lane, 5509 State Route 145, Cobleskill, NY 12043. Include your name, address and preferred telephone number. Letters may be edited for space. See newsletter deadlines on page 2.

Joe Swickard was so happy [that] he left the dinner and went in the hall and called the *Detroit Free Press* to tell them about his win. I was stunned and he was too about him getting a Maxwell. He asked me if he would get a medal, and I told him probably not in the newspaper category, so he was thrilled.

—Mary Burch

A big thanks to the person who put the results on the website so quickly. You had every reason to be tired but those of us who could not attend the dinner were very happy you posted them.

—Gail Parker

I could write a book about all tonight's awards. Let me hit the highlights before I get to my train stop: the DWAA Distinguished Service Award went to the inimitable Debra White, and the Dogwise Best Book Award went to *The Bernese Mountain Dog: Yesterday and Today* by Silvana Vogel Tedeschi. She also got the Pro Plan President's Award. Congrats to Silvana and all the other winners and nominees!

—Sandy Mesmer

I had the best time at the DWAA dinner. I brought three people with me. They had a fabulous time. Love how the evening moved. Hope to see you again next year.

—Carol Erickson

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed the banquet, the first I have attended. Great event, great people, and the dogs in the lobby were an extra treat! Many thanks.

—June Greig

Thank you for sending us a program with our ad in it that was marked up with winners. What a nice touch! We will use this information to promote the book winners to the Dogwise.com customers. Another exciting DWAA banquet behind all! Good work!

—Charlene Woodward  
Dogwise

## Apply Now for Scholarship to Attend Conference in 2013

The Business of Pet Writing Conference is again offering one lucky member of DWAA a scholarship to attend the 2013 conference.

The scholarship includes conference registration and networking lunch, admission to the DWAA annual banquet (offered by Aaronco Publishing), and tickets to both nights of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show (donated by WKC's David Frei).

To apply for the Mordecai Siegal Scholarship, send a one-page letter describing yourself and your financial need, outlining your writing career and how coming to the pet writing conference could help you. Send the letter to Charlotte Reed, 362 Broome Street, #20, New York, New York 10013, between **May 1st and August 31st**. The winner will be announced before November 1st.

*All applications will be kept strictly confidential.*





# DWAA Business

## Secretary's Report

We are growing by leaps and bounds and welcomed 27 members last year. This year we have 13 today and 4 last month. At this writing we have 478 members and that includes the 13 I have brought today.

I believe we have everyone who wants to be on the e-list established and those who desire the forum on the forum. We have weathered the storms and are on solid ground once again.

We have a new roster coming out this spring and we were well represented at the Eukanuba Show this past fall.

Our newsletter has improved so much and people are really reading it now.

I have enjoyed being your secretary,

Pat Santi  
DWAA Secretary  
February 12, 2009

## Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Dr. Battaglia at 11:20 AM on February 12, 2012. Present, Dr. Battaglia, Pat Santi, Marsha Pugh, Robert McKowen, Dr. Joel Gavriele-Gold, Susan Jeffries, Patricia Cruz, Marion Lane, Ranny Green, and Bryna Comsky.

Minutes of last meeting February 13, 2011 accepted with the correction of Alan Alford's name on the HOF Committee. Motion by Robert McKowen to accept and seconded by Bryna Comsky.

Reports of the President, Treasurer (published in this newsletter), Secretary, Legal Counsel, Contest, report of Eukanuba Booth, and Newsletter report given to those present. These reports should be found in this newsletter.

The Secretary cast one vote for the two Board Members for the Class of 2015,

Bryna Comsky and Robert McKowen. Since there were no other nominations the two are elected to office.

Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were given out and bylaws to all who wanted them.

The Secretary read the President's Committee Choices for the coming year:

- **Banquet Committee** Chair: Pat Santi, Co Chair: Marsha Pugh
- **Budget and Finance** Chair: Dr. Battaglia, Susan Jeffries, Ida Estep, Marion Lane, Marsha Pugh, Pat Santi
- **Bylaws Committee** Chair: Ida Estep, Alan Alford, Dr. Battaglia, Patricia Cruz, Pat Santi
- **Contest Committee** Chair: Susan Jeffries, Officers and Board
- **Hall of Fame Committee** Chair: Patricia Cruz, Robert McKowen, Alan Alford
- **Hall of Fame Criteria Committee** Chair: Pat Santi, Dr. Joel Gavriele Gold, Marsha Pugh
- **Liaison to Cat Writers Association** Marion Lane
- **Membership Committee** Chair: Marsha Pugh, Bryna Comsky, Su Ewing, Patricia Kelly, Marion Lane
- **Public Education Committee** Marsha Pugh, Caroline Coile, Connie Brittain, Pat Santi

The Secretary gave the Banquet Report. We have 170 reservations at this time and more are expected to show up as promised. We are over what was reserved last year. The Banquet Committee decided that we should eat first and then have the awards. It worked well last year and we plan to do again tonight.

The mention of Board Minutes was discussed. It was asked if they could be published in the newsletter. Dr. Battaglia explained that because of the sensitive nature of some discussions board minutes should not be published. It was discussed that many clubs and organizations do not publish board minutes but

## Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

Opening Balance January 1, 2011	20,978.00
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>46,064.30</b>
Applications	2,250.00
Award Program Ads	200.00
Awards Banquet	7,207.70
Bank Adjustment	165.00
Banquet Sponsors	7,950.00
Contest Entry Fees	7,778.00
Donatios	100.00
Dues	13,513.60
Special Award Sponsors	6,900.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>37,671.20</b>
Accounting	-744.50
Archive Storage	-300.00
Bank Charges	-250.00
Banquet Expenses (Affinia Deposit)	-14,641.59
Computer	-2300.00
Donation/Cat Writers Association	-1,000.00
Hall of Fame	-518.14
Insurance	-1,164.00
Newsletter	-3,676.87
Secretarial Expenses	763.24
Special Award Recipients	-6,900.00
Supplies	-590.37
Eukanuba Volunteer Reimbursed	-30.00
Massachusetts State Registration	-35.00
Ending Balance December 11, 2011	29,371.50

Prepared by Marsha M. Pugh, Treasurer

they do publish the club and membership minutes. DWAA will continue its past practice. No vote was taken.

The contest chair was asked about some categories and Susan explained that she will narrow the field for next year and that Dog News Articles need a category at this time. Discussion followed. Discussion by the board with the contest chair about publishing the number of entries in each category followed. Sue explained why she likes having people know how many entered. More Discussion followed. It was also discussed to not put the number of entries in the program in the future. When there are small entries the winner would be embarrassed.

Susan Jeffries was given a large thank you for all her work on the contest again this year. Susan expressed how much she enjoyed doing it and it is a lot of work. Susan called it a labor of love. Discussion followed.

The secretary gave out the list of Officers and Board to the Newsletter Editor and anyone who wanted a copy.

## New Business

Ranny Green suggested we consider having regional directors for purposes of communicating with the membership. He thought it would let members feel they had a designated person to represent them for purposes of questions and to get answers. He stated that such a plan works very well for an organization Ranny belongs to called Noah's Wish. This organization helps animals in disasters. A discussion followed.

This sort of plan gives many hands to help answer questions instead of all the work falling on one person. More discussion followed. Ranny explained how the system works. Dr. Battaglia stated that the Board would take this up at a Board meeting and report back to the membership. No vote was taken.

Robert McKowen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Gavriele- Gold. All in favor and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Santi, Secretary

## New Members

### Eleanor Alford

Freelance/P  
4160 Hall Court  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
925-846-2585  
eleanoralford@comcast.net  
Sponsors: Arlie Alford & Sue Jeffries

### Kim Downing

Freelance/P  
24283 State Avenue  
Tonganoxie, KS 66086  
913-369-3439  
c-913-683-3039  
kdowning@prodigy.net  
Sponsors: Pat Santi & Marsha Pugh

### Kathleen Glaes

USASA/P  
1215 Cross Keys Road  
Reading, PA 19605  
610-926-4428  
c-484-529-8327  
klglaes@mac.com  
Sponsors: Tracy Libby & Sheila Boneham

### June Greig

Freelance/A  
16 Robin Road  
Longmeadow, MA 01106  
413-567-3910  
413-847-0161  
Juneg10@aol.com  
Sponsors: Pat Santi & Marsha Pugh

### Kim Kavin

Freelance/P  
15 Tall Timber Drive  
Califon, NJ 07830  
908-975-3031  
kim@kimkavin.com  
Sponsors: Loren Spiota DiMare & Pat Santi

### Janice Koler-Matznick

Freelance/P  
5265 Old Stage Road  
Central Point, OR 97502  
541-664-4023  
541-621-9290  
Jkoler@country.net  
Sponsors: Karen London & Pat Santi

### Kelly Ladouceur

Freelance/P  
147 Highfield Street  
Fort McMurray, Alberta, T9H 3T1 Canada  
780-715-8010  
780-743-3488  
klad@shaw.ca  
Sponsors: Carol Bryant & Cindy Read

### Karen London

Freelance/P  
3100 W. Shannon Drive  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
928-774-7424  
London@uwalumni.com  
Sponsors: Sue Jeffries & Pat Santi

### Barbara E. Magera, MD

Freelance/A  
611 Catbird Retreat  
Charleston, SC 29412  
843-478-8902  
O-843-762-9321

bemagera@gmail.com  
Sponsors: Holly Cornwall & Pat Santi

### Sidney L. Marx

Freelance/P  
20392 Elk Creek Drive West  
Colorado Springs, CO 80908  
719-495-6625  
719-684-5820  
Sidlegion1@msn.com  
Sponsors: Patricia Cruz & Pat Santi

### Elaine Mitchell

Freelance/A  
175 Pinebrook Drive  
Paducah, KY 42001  
519-352-2227  
843-478-8902  
minist@xplornet.com  
Sponsors: Holly Cornwall & Pat Santi

### Gael J. Ross

Broken Heart Press/P  
7250 NC Hwy 751 #1209  
Durham, NC 27707-5722  
919-237-2351  
919-593-6825  
919-237-2351  
Gjross08@гна.com  
Sponsors: Chris Walkowicz Sue Jeffries

### Kimberley Wall

Freelance /P  
6715 Plainview Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63109  
314-943-0867  
Wallx3@sbcglobal.net  
Sponsors: Marsha Pugh & Pat Santi

### Susan Wilson

Freelance/P  
P.O. Box 1003  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02554  
508-693-4563  
Susanwilsonwrites@yahoo.com  
Sponsors: Bobbie Pyron & Pat Santi

*Editor's Note: A new membership roster will be mailed to all members in April. Therefore, updates and corrections to current members' contact information are not being published in this newsletter.*

## 2011 Writing Contest Report

Another contest is coming to a close as we bestow honors and congratulations to all the nominees and winners. Each contest represents a tremendous amount of work, from the talented writers, artists and photographers, through to the hard-working editors and production staffs, and finally to our dedicated judges and members of DWAA who put the finishing touches on our efforts.

Our sponsors are the heart and soul of this contest, providing \$8,350 in special awards, covering sixteen areas. We continue to gather additional support, with several new awards this year and the promise of more to come. We can thank Pat Santi for stimulating requests and reminders to our friends who supply the money in our everchanging economy.

This year, as in years past, the contest paid for itself, with a little left over. Entry fees totaled just under \$7,800. The cost of the awards was right at \$2,500, the contest chair stipend was \$2,500, and our shipping costs and supplies ran about \$1,500. We had 522 regular entries plus 228 applications for special awards from all over the country, Canada, and Europe.

We ended up with 200 nominees and 85 winners of medallions as we expanded the categories to include digital publishing and other Internet presence. (I even had one request to enter a billboard!) Now that we have a better feel for current practices, we'll look at closing up and combining some of the weaker categories for next

year, making for a more manageable contest for all involved.

While the contest is very time consuming and literally a back-breaking job, I'll be glad to handle it again next year. I'll be looking for easier ways to manage the contest, since I just turned 70 years old. But it's very rewarding, and I'll stay with it as long as possible.

Sue Jeffries,  
Contest Chair

## Legal Advisor's Report

### Embezzlement Case

During this year, Rue Chagoll, confronted with the evidence against him, confessed to embezzling funds from DWAA. Given his prior clean record and other factors, the NY Court sentenced him to probation with the requirement for restitution.

Realistically, however, given that we understand Rue is already on payment plans to the IRS and for back child support, the likelihood of our recovering any money is pretty slim. Especially since, as

a convicted felon, it would be difficult for him to find employment.

### Audit of Books

In order to review our current financial transactions and at the same time avoid the very large fees charged by accounting firms, as counsel, I did an informal audit of the 2010 financial records and found no problems. As soon as Marsha Pugh sends me copies of the 2011 financial records, I will audit them.

### Bylaws

The principal work on the bylaws this year involved investigating various avenues which would permit us to receive 501(c) (3) status from the IRS. Our current 501 status recognizes us as a nonprofit but does not allow donors to deduct any contributions from their taxes. Unfortunately, given the nature of DWAA, we do not appear to qualify for (c) (3) status.

Ida Estep, Esq.  
DWAA Vice-President and Legal Advisor

## Public Education Committee Report

At DWAA president Carmen Battaglia's request, Michael Canalizo, AKC event management director, offered the DWAA a free booth at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show December 16-17, 2011 in Orlando. Aliza Burns, coordinator of licensing and development, saw to it that we had a 10' x 10' booth with an electrical outlet and draping on three sides, as well as, for a small fee, a table and chairs. Dogwise Publications donated books, easels for displaying them, bookmarks and book bags. DWAA board member Caroline Coile was in charge of setting up the booth.

Highlights of the booth were poster-size pictures of Maxwell Riddle and several Hall of Fame inductees; banners showing our acronym and the Maxwell medallion; pamphlets containing DWAA history and our mission statement; copies of *Ruff Drafts*; membership applications, and more.

Members Connie Brittain, Bryna Comsky, and Martin Deeley spent two days at the booth, helping to locate and escort volunteers, unpacking and packing, lugging and hauling and introducing the DWAA to the public. Authors stopping by to sign books and volunteer their time were Arlene Klein, Sandy Mesmer, Pat Hastings, and Caroline Coile.

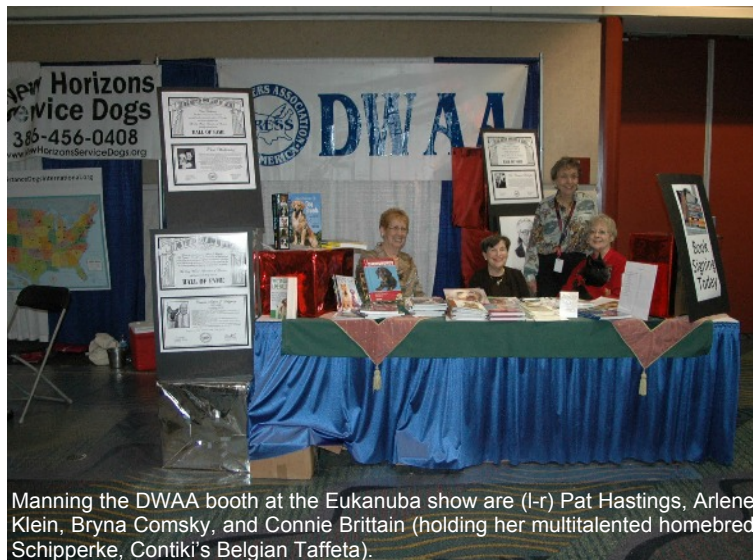
Maxwell Riddle's widow Lenora Riddle delighted visitors with stories about Max, and about her early judging assignments. She brought catalogs and judges' books from the 1930s to share.

Logistically, there were some lessons learned. The main problem was that many of our volunteers had trouble negotiating the size of the venue and finding the booth. But the Florida DWAA members were very excited to be helping and they did a great job in manning the booth, giving out information, and making DWAA known to the general public. Everyone is eager to participate next year.

Cost breakdown for the booth:

Mourer Foster	\$ 109.00	Insurance
Pat Santi	\$ 340.09	Information booklet
Lenora Riddle	\$ 30.00	Volunteer stipend
Arlene Klein	\$ 30.00	Volunteer stipend
Martin Deeley	\$ 60.00	Volunteer stipend
Carolyn Coile	\$ 60.00	Volunteer stipend
Connie Brittain	\$ 60.00	Volunteer stipend
Connie Brittain	\$ 20.27	Postage/posters
Carmen Battaglia	\$ 67.18	Postage/boxes
Pat Santi	\$ 142.27	Reimbursement/ banners and booklets
AKC	\$ 123.00	Tables & chairs
Total	\$1,041.81	

Submitted by Caroline Coile and Marsha Pugh



Manning the DWAA booth at the Eukanuba show are (l-r) Pat Hastings, Arlene Klein, Bryna Comsky, and Connie Brittain (holding her multitasking homebred Schipperke, Contiki's Belgian Taffeta).



# DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## 2012 Awards Banquet



### Maxwell Medallion Winners\*

#### NEWSPAPERS

##### Feature or News Story

- James Colasanti, Jr., "Butchy's Christmas Angel" – *Greensboro NC News Record*, 12/24/10
- Joe Swickard, "Michigan Inmates Help Dogs Become Good Citizens" – *Flint Journal (Detroit Free Press)*, 1/16/11



James Colasanti, Jr. (l) and Joe Swickard tie for Best Newspaper Feature or News Story

##### Column

- Christy Caballero, Column in *The Argus*, Hillsboro, OR, 9/9/10, 6/14/11, 8/12/11

##### Opinion/Editorial

- Joanne Anderson, "Huntington Hoarders" – *Massapequa Post*, 9/15/10

#### MAGAZINES (Commercially published)

##### All-Breed

- *Dog World* - Bow Tie, Inc., Ernie Sloane, group editor

##### Single-Breed

- *The Royal Spaniels* - Holly Cornwell, editor

##### Special Interest

- *DogSport* - Joyce Raeburn, editor

##### Yearbook, Annual, Special Edition

- *Natural Dog 2012 Annual* – Bow Tie, Inc. Aug. 2011)

##### Feature in All-Breed Magazine

- Leslie Pearce-Keating, "The Healing Touch" – *AKC Family Dog*, July/Aug. 2011

##### Feature in Single-Breed Magazine

- Brian Patrick Duggan, "Custer and His Hounds" – *Sighthound Review*, Aug. 2011

##### Feature in Special Interest Magazine

- Adam Williams, "Relief After the Storm" - *Rally to Rescue*, Summer 2011

##### Feature in Mainstream, General Interest Magazine

- Joel Gavriale-Gold, Ph.D., "The Human-Canine Bond: New Learning and a Changing Rationality," – *Psychoanalytic Review*, Feb. 2011



Joel Gavriale-Gold captures the Maxwell for Best Feature in a Mainstream Magazine

##### Feature in Yearbook, Annual or Special Edition

- Elaine W. Gewirtz, "15 Tips for Finding the Right Breeder" – *Puppies USA*, May 2011

##### Breed Profile in Any Magazine

- Stephanie Horan, "All in a Day's Work" – *Dog World*, Sept. 2011 (pub. June 2011)

##### Training/Behavior Article in Any Magazine

- Stephanie Colman, "Positive Protection" – *Whole Dog Journal*, Feb. 2011
- Rise Van Fleet, "If You Can't Say Anything Nice . . ." – *The APDT Chronicle of the Dog*, May/June 2011

##### Regular Column

- Eve Adamson, "Good Grooming" – *AKC Family Dog*

##### Subject-Related Series

- Larry A. Bernstein, VMD, "Holistic Health Care for Cavaliers" – *The Royal Spaniels*

##### Editorial/Opinion

- Rachel Venier, "England, My View" – *The Royal Spaniels*, Fall 2010

All award photos by Mary Bloom

\* More than one name denotes a tie.



## CANINE OR ALL-ANIMAL NEWSPAPERS OR NEWSLETTERS

### Canine Newspaper or Newsletter

- *Dogs Dogs Dogs* - Gillian Ridgeway
- *Your Dog* (Tufts Veterinary School) – Betty Liddick

### Article on Health/Care

- D. Caroline Coile Ph.D., "Bone Marrow Transplantation"  
– *Purina Update*, May 2011
- Sally Deneen, "The Truth Behind the Use of Supplements"  
– *Your Dog*, October 2010

### Article on All Other Topics

- Jacque Newman, "You Can't Hurry Love"  
– *Dogs Dogs Dogs*, Oct./Nov., 2010
- Sharon Pflaumer, "U.S. War Dogs" – *Dog News*, Aug. 12, 2011

## INTERNET, WEBSITES OR BLOGS

### Website

- Amy Shojai, *Puppies.About.com*

### Feature Article

- Ranny Green, "Even If You Wore A Frown, Gritty Would Coax a Smile"  
– *Seattle Kennel Club*, 7/1/11

### Regular Column

- Tracie Laliberte, "Dog Pawse" –  
*The Sun Chronicle on-line*

### Online Magazine, Newsletter or Publication (primary distribution)

- *AKC Canine Partners News* – Penny Leigh & Joanne Tribble

### Single Blog

- Patti Lawson, "She Waits" – *Redroom.com* (Omnimedia Corp.), 8/29/11

### Regular Ongoing Blogs

- AKC, "Citizen Canine: Award Winning Training Tips"  
– *Caninegoodcitizen.wordpress.com*

## GRAPHICS

### Color Photography

- Allen Weinberg, "Hope" – *The French Bullytin*, Feb. 2011 (see cover)

### Black and White Photography (see page 12)

- Murielle Cote, "Almost" – *The Corgi Cryer*, Winter 2010

### Photography: Series

- Chet Jezierski, "Got That!" – *2011 "D" Annual*, Feb., 2011

### Illustration or Painting

- Chet Jezierski, "Finnish Lapphund" – *AKC Gazette*, July 2011

### Illustration or Painting: Series

- Sandy Bergstrom Mesmer, "Illustrations of Group Winners"  
– *Howler* (Clearwater, FL Kennel Club)

### Posters, Calendars, or Special Publications

- 2011 Rescue Calendar, Afghan Hound Club of America  
– Joanne Anderson and Marilyn Danko

### Brochure, Pamphlet, or Short Special Publication

- Judith Macomber, "San Diego Guide to Dog Walks" - March 2011

## HUMOR, POETRY, FICTION

### Humorous Art

- Eleanor Carr Alford, Cartoons for *The French Bullytin*

### Humorous Writing

- Michael H. Faulkner, "Favorite Toy"  
– *Dog News*, June 17, 2011

### Poetry

- Alexis Riester, "Farewell, My Friend."  
In: *Ivy, the True Tail of America's No. 1 Canine Sleuth*,  
Red Letter Press, May 2011

### Short Fiction

- Joe Badalamente, "Partner"  
– *AKC Family Dog*, July/Aug. 2011



Best in Humorous Writing category: Michael H. Faulkner

## OTHER MEDIA

### Videotape, CD or DVD

- Cindy Crawley, "AKC Meet the Breeds – Meet the Poodle" – Oct. 2010

### Broadcast

- Carol Erickson, "The Royal William (the other one)" – KYW-TV – 11/19/10

### Podcast

- Sarah Montague,  
"Fetching Dinner: Hunting Dogs Help Bring Seasonal Foods"  
– WNYC.org – 11/18/10

## CLUB PUBLICATIONS (NATIONAL)

### Magazine Format

- The Saint Fancier – Glenn Radcliffe

### Newsletter Format

- *Alaskan Malamute Club of America Newsletter* – Leneia Rogowski

### Feature

- Ruth Nielsen, Esq., "Ambassador on Wheels: Life's Lessons"  
– *The Alpenhorn*, December 2010
- Kim Thornton, "Genetics, Breeding & Disease: Science and the Future"  
– *The Royal Dispatch*, Spring, 2011

## Les Révélations Étranges de Bruno le Bouledogue français

(The Strange Revelations of Bruno, the French Bulldog)



Oh Judge Fairweather, I was scheduled for my  
heart transplant today, but when I heard that  
YOU were judging this wonderful show,  
I could not miss it!

THE FRENCH BULLYTIM VOLUME 28, NO. 1



Eleanor Alford, new DWAA member and the ninety-year-old mother of Arlie Amarie Alford, wins a Maxwell for her cartoons in *The French Bullytin*.

### Best Humorous Art

From Sue Jeffries, contest chair:

Alexis Riester, 14, is the author of "Farewell, My Friend." Not only did her work win the poetry category, Alexis was selected DWAA's best junior writer. She was only 12 when she wrote the poem as a tribute to Ivy, the doggy heroine of Karen Petit's book, "Ivy, the True 'Tail' of America's No. 1 Canine Sleuth." Petit's book was published in May 2011.

Petit is a teacher who encourages her students to participate in the production of her books. She took Alexis under her wing and brought her to New York for the DWAA banquet, the Westminster show, and other "cultural" events. Petit was so impressed by DWAA's attention to promising young writers that she has offered to sponsor the award from now on, starting at \$300.



The winner of Best Poem as well as of the DWAA Junior Writer special award is fourteen-year-old Alexis Riester.

### Best Poem

#### *Farewell, My Friend*

*By Alexis Riester*

*Dear Friend, Savior, Confidant,  
On Angel's wings you Soar,  
You carry with you  
A Piece of my longing Heart.  
Through Midnight Stars  
And bright sunlight, you Glide,  
Watching, Protecting,  
Guarding your Guardian.  
Thank you, Ivy.  
In my heart, you are always.  
You have claimed my soul.  
I love you.  
For all you have done for me,  
I set you free.  
Good-bye, My Love.*



## Opinion/Editorial

- Lawrence Gerson, VMD,  
"A Veterinarian Reflects on Dog Laws to Regulate Breeding"  
– *The Alpenhorn*, June 2011

## Regular Column

- Elizabeth M. Jarrell, "Just So" – *The Aussie Times*

## Series

- Betty Kramp, "Breeding a Litter"  
– *Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America Newsletter*

## Special Publication

- *Guide to Grooming the Scottish Terrier*  
– Marianne Melucci (Scottish Terrier Club of Am.) – Oct. 2010
- *Pembroke Welsh Corgis in America, 2010 Handbook*  
– Sue Vahaly, John Vahaly, Kathie Charpie – Aug. 2011

## CLUB PUBLICATIONS: REGIONAL OR LOCAL

## Magazine or Newsletter Format

- *The Corgi Cryer* (Mayflower Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club) – Cindy Read

## Feature or Opinion/Editorial

- Tibby Chase, "Teach a Child, Save a Dog, and Protect our Rights"  
– *The Corgi Cryer*, Summer 2011

## Column or Series

- Deb Devona and Deb M. Eldredge, DVM,  
"Herd, Seen, Find, Over, and Finish" – *The Corgi Cryer*

## BOOKS

### Single Breed

- *The Bernese Mountain Dog: Yesterday and Today*  
– Silvana Vogel Tedeschi (Edizioni Al Trouante) (Italy)

### General Interest or Reference

- *Big Dogs of Tibet and the Himalayas*  
– Don Messerschmidt (Orchid Press, Dec. 2010)
- *Structure in Action: The Makings of a Durable Dog*  
– Pat Hastings with Wendy Wallace, DVM and Erin Ann Rouse  
(Dogfolk Enterprises, January 2011)
- *The American Kennel Club's Meet the Breeds*  
– AKC/Dennis Sprung (Bow Tie, Nov. 2010)
- *Careers with Dogs* – Kim Thornton (BowTie, Dec. 2010)

### Care and Health

- *The Canine Thyroid Epidemic*  
– W. Jean Dodds, DVM and  
Diana Laverdure (Dogwise, May 2011)

### Training and Behavior

- *The Love That Dog Training Program*  
– Dawn Sylvia-Stasiewicz and Larry Kay  
(Workman Pub., Sept. 2010)

### Fiction and Mystery

- *Brute Strength* – Susan Conant  
(Severn House, May. 2011)
- *Murder in the Senior Manor*  
– Kathryn Braund, May 2011



Diana Laverdure accepts the Maxwell for Best Care and Health Book, coauthored with W. Jean Dodds, DVM, who was unable to attend; the book also won the Eukanuba Canine Health Award

## Children's

- *A Dog's Way Home*  
– Bobbie Pyron (Katherine Tegen Books - Harper Collins, March, 2011)
- *What Is Your Dog Doing?* – Marilyn Singer (Simon & Schuster, June 2011)

## Softcover Guides on Any Dog-Related Subject

- *Love Has No Age Limit: Welcoming an Adopted Dog into your Home*  
– Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D. and Karen B. London, Ph.D.  
(McConnell Publishing, June 2011)

## Single or Multibreed Pet Guides

- *Breed Lover's Guide: Border Terrier* – Lorie Long (TFH, July 2011)

## Humor

- *For the Love of Dogs* – Allison Weiss Entrekin (Triumph Books, Feb. 2011)

## Human/Animal Bond

- *A 30-Day Guide to Healing from the Loss of Your Pet*  
– Gael J. Ross (Broken Heart Press, Sept. 2010)
- *Born to Bark* - Stanley Coren (Free Press – Simon & Schuster, Nov. 2010)



Gael Ross and Stanley Coren tie for Best Book on the Human/Animal Bond

## Anthology

- *Chicken Soup for the Soul: My Dog's Life*  
– Amy Newmark (Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, April 2011)

## SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

### AKC Club Publication Excellence Award

Ruth Nielsen, Esq., "Ambassador on Wheels: Life's Lessons,"  
*The Alpenhorn*, December 2010

### AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Public Service Award

Patti Lawson, "She Waits," Redroom.com,  
August 29, 2011

### AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizen Award

Joe Swickard, "Michigan Inmates Help Dogs Become Good Citizens,"  
*Detroit Free Press*, January 16, 2011

### Angel on a Leash Award

Cheryl Zappala, "The Story of Nana," *The Saint Fancier*, Spring 2011

### APDT Canine Life and Social Skills (C.L.A.S.S.) Award

Dawn Sylvia-Stasiewicz and Larry Kay, *The Love That Dog Training Program*,  
Workman Publishing



Patti Lawson (l) wins Best Single Blog as well as the AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Public Service Award; AKC's Stephanie Smith presenting



Charlene Woodward of Dogwise presents the Dogwise Best Book Award to Silvana Vogel Tedeschi for *The Bernese Mountain Dog: Yesterday and Today*, which also won Best Single Breed Book and the Pro Plan President's Award

### Dogwise Best Book Award

Silvana Vogel Tedeschi, *The Bernese Mountain Dog: Yesterday and Today*, Edizioni Al Trouante, Italy

### Wiley-Ellsworth S. Howell Award

Arlie Amarie Alford, *The French Bullytin*

### DWAA Junior Writer Award

Alexis Riester

### DWAA Distinguished Service Award

Debra J. White

### Morris Animal Foundation Advances in Canine Veterinary Medicine Award

Fran Pennock Shaw, "Seeking Advances in Craniate Surgery," *Your Dog* (Tufts Veterinary School), December 2010



Debra J. White receives the 2011 DWAA Distinguished Service Award



Tying for the Best Children's Book Award, Bobbie Pyron also takes home the Merial Human-Animal Bond Award

### Merial Human-Animal Bond Award

Bobbie Pyron, *A Dog's Way Home*, Katherine Tegen Books/Harper Collins

### Eukanuba Canine Health Award

W. Jean Dodds DVM and Diana Laverdure, *The Canine Thyroid Epidemic*, Dogwise

### Planet Dog Foundation Sit. Speak. Act. Canine Service Award

Sharon Pflaumer, "U.S. War Dogs," *Dog News*, August 12, 2011

### Pro Plan President's Award

Silvana Vogel Tedeschi, *The Bernese Mountain Dog: Yesterday and Today*, Edizioni Al Trouante, Italy

### PSI First-Canine Award

Michael H. Faulkner, "Favorite Toy," *Dog News*, June 17, 2011

### North Shore Animal League America Award

Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D. and Karen B. London, Ph.D., *Love Has No Age Limit: Welcoming an Adopted Dog Into Your Home*, McConnell Publishing

Trish McConnell, Ph.D. accepts the Maxwell for Best Softcover Guide, which also won the North Shore Animal League America Award; co-author Karen London, Ph.D., was unable to attend



## 2011 Hall of Fame Inductee

### Steve Dale

#### Qualifications

- Chicago-based newspaper columnist for many years
- TV host (and guest) on animal topics
- Syndicated radio talk show host
- Tireless animal advocate
- Facebook presence with more than 2,500 "friends" and his own fan page
- Popular public speaker and emcee
- Daily blogger
- Certified animal behavior counselor
- Long-time member of DWAA
- Board member, Angel on a Leash
- Board Member, American Humane
- Board Member, Winn Feline Foundation
- Recipient of awards too numerous to mention



Posting on the DWAA e-list a few days after the awards banquet, Steve wrote about how much it meant to him to be recognized by his colleagues in the room that night, who stood as he walked to the podium, and being able to share the evening with his wife, Robin (pictured above). "I'm proud to be in the [Hall of Fame] club, and hope I've made a difference. I've been writing about pets full time now for seventeen, going on eighteen years. I hope to continue to do that."





*Winner, Best Blog; & Winner, AKC Responsible*

*Dog Ownership Public Service Award*

# ***She Waits*** by Patti Lawson



No matter what I am doing, my dog Sadie waits for me. The day I drove to PetSmart to “look” at puppies, a little dog was waiting. She was waiting for a home...waiting for the touch and scent of that special someone who would be her person...waiting to be loved...waiting for me. So it is with the dogs we take into our lives and agree to take care of...they wait for us to do so.

My promise to take care of Sadie was sincere. How to care for her I had no idea...I just knew I could and that I would, because it was so easy to love her. Even though meeting the needs of a small puppy was exhausting, Sadie could not wait for me to become a responsible “mom.” Everything Sadie needed had to come from me: food, water, medical care, safety, family. A tall order, and it scared me. I’d never been responsible for anyone but myself. I counted on the advice of other pet parents, a good vet, and my newly discovered maternal instincts. As my love for Sadie grew, so did my innate sense of what she required.

Whether you purchase your dog from a reputable breeder or rescue one from a shelter like I did, your first responsibility is to make this dog part of your life. I was dumb enough to think my dog would live in the back yard, not have long hair that got on my clothes, and of course, there would be no face licking... Today Sadie sleeps with me, I have dog-hair sticky rollers everywhere as well as a powerful pet hair vacuum that’s worthless, and Sadie licks my face endlessly—to my delight.

I hired a pet nanny during my vacation the first two years after I got Sadie...but I missed her. So instead of skipping over the rental properties with the paw prints symbolizing they allowed dogs, I searched for them. I didn’t go out for expensive lunches anymore; I went home and walked with Sadie. I didn’t need to go out with friends after work...Sadie was home, and she was waiting for me. It was wonderful to peek through the basement window and see her sitting in her crate facing the stairs, waiting. Nothing related to Sadie was a sacrifice...everything was a joy.

Many people get a dog for protection, and I soon knew that Sadie would protect me. Unexpectedly though, I realized that I needed to protect her, too. While sitting on our front porch one day, Sadie spotted a friend across the street, and before I could grab her, she ran into the street. I still thank God there wasn’t a fast car. I cried as I carried her home, knowing how great my loss would have been.

Keeping our dogs safe is our duty. Millions of Sadies never make it back from a dash into the street. Equally as many dogs are accidentally

poisoned by household products, suffocate in hot cars or freeze to death being left outside. Responsible dog owners use leashes to keep their dogs safe around traffic, remove their collars when putting them in crates, secure them with safety harnesses in cars.

I agreed to have Sadie spayed when I adopted her. I remember feeding her ice chips after her surgery and starting a file for her medical records. When she collapsed on a walk one day, I didn’t hesitate when the local vet recommended she go to a veterinary teaching hospital for treatment. Each day for two years I gave her the veterinary cardiologist’s prescription as she came in from her morning walk. She’d vomited in her crate one Sunday while I was at church, and when she didn’t get better during the day, I took her to an emergency vet clinic. I sat up all night watching her while she slept.

Responsible dog owners must be cognizant of what our dogs tell us with their actions. Sadie itched endlessly. She was tested for allergies and received medication that eased her symptoms. I notice when she limps, when she is lethargic, when she doesn’t eat. At a book signing once I mindlessly reached down to stroke her ear, and it was very hot. A quick call to her vet and I knew how to soothe the irritation.

*“The most responsible thing you can do for your dog is to always do for them what they must wait for you to do.”*

Sadie had no worldly goods when she came to live with me. We took an extravagant shopping trip to PetSmart. We ran around the store asking questions, getting a collar and leash, food, treats, brushes, shampoo, toys. I never say “late” to Sadie when she brings me one of her toys, because I know that some day she will not want to play. I know this because other dog parents have told me about that day. Seven times the pace of mine, Sadie’s life goes by: throw a ball and catch it, run after Mr. Squirrel, go grab the Christmas tree that plays music, shake the neon lobster until he squeaks, walk through our subdivision...moments we share. Responsible dog parents take time to play with their dogs.

Even novice pet parents know that dogs need food and water. The first time I heard Sadie drink water I thought my kitchen drain was malfunctioning. Selecting food was a process of elimination—what she liked, what was good for her, and what she wasn’t allergic to. Responsible pet owners discuss nutrition with their vets. They make sure their dog has fresh water all the time and clean feeding dishes. Although Sadie can be sneaky, opening her treat drawer and sitting there sweetly until I notice, she waits for me to feed her, and she can depend on me.

Pet owners can provide mere basics to their dogs, but as a reliable, responsible, loving pet parent you will do more. Tune into your dog’s needs and wants...yes, wants. They want to be touched...they want to be praised...they want to be part of your life. The most responsible thing you can do for your dog is to always do for them what they must wait for you to do.

It is bedtime, and as I get ready for bed, I see Sadie in the mirror behind me...waiting. I tap her toothbrush on the sink, and she drags herself over for “toofen” brushing time. We go downstairs for that last trip outside, and Sadie patrols the yard for the final security check of the night. I wait. Bare feet and paws go up the stairs together...we waited for each other, and it was worth it.

*Editor’s Note: This blog has been edited to fit the available space.* 🐾

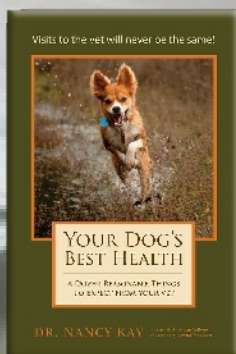
# MEMBER NEWS



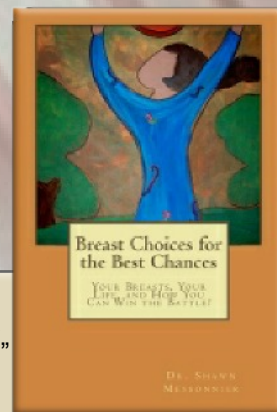
Long-time member **Amy Shojai** of Sherman, Texas, continues to find new ways to keep working despite shrinking print markets. In March, Amy, who studied voice in a former life, coauthored, helped direct, and performed in *Kurves the Musical* in Denison, Texas. A few weeks later Amy posted this on the e-list: "I gotz news. My debut thriller...heck, my debut novel!...has been accepted for publication!" Titled *Lost & Found*, the novel features an animal behaviorist and includes "dog viewpoint." Amy explains that the novel will be published by the same publisher who brought her backlist nonfiction into Print on Demand and various e-book formats. Always willing to share, Amy presented a seminar on this subject at last year's Cat Writers conference.

New Yorker **Mary Bloom** has made...The New Yorker! Under the heading "Odd Jobs," Mary was profiled in the February 13, 2012 edition of the iconic magazine as the official photographer for the Westminster Kennel Club show. Mary calls the piece her "fifteen minutes of fame." The article points out how Mary's lifelong love for dogs gives her an advantage over other photographers scrambling on the floor at Westminster who don't have that special connection that brings the best out of her subjects. Check out the story—and the fun illustration—at [http://www.newyorker.com/talk/2012/02/13/120213ta\\_talk\\_mcgrath](http://www.newyorker.com/talk/2012/02/13/120213ta_talk_mcgrath). (Mary also took all the photos at the DWAA banquet—see pages 8-12.)

**Chris Walkowicz**, Sherrard, IL, breeder and exhibitor, columnist and author, dog show judge and former DWAA president, has one more hat that she wears from time to time: expert witness. In February Chris testified in court on behalf of a kindly woman with ten rescued dogs, most elderly, several with special needs. Says Chris, "Her realtor goofed in not knowing about the [three-dog-limit] zoning law." Although the dogs were receiving excellent care, the neighbors wanted seven to be removed within a year. Chris's testimony helped. "We won!" she posted on the e-list. "Well, sorta. She has two years to get down to three dogs or move. At least it buys some time."



Relatively new (2008) member **Nancy Kay D.V.M.**, who writes a weekly blog called *Speaking for Spot*, announces the publication of her new book, *Your Dog's Best Health: A Dozen Reasonable Things to Expect From Your Vet*. The focus of the book is owner—veterinarian communication. I think most of us already feel that talking to our pets' vets is pretty easy, at least compared to, say, talking to our people doctors, but there's always room for improvement, especially as veterinary medicine becomes ever more specialized and sophisticated.



Piano, TX-based member **Shawn Messonier, D.V.M.** recently self-published a book he calls "my most important work to date." Shawn is known as a "natural" vet who advocates health maintenance and disease prevention in animals, and this book applies those same principles to breast cancer in women. Those of us who read the DWAA Group e-list remember the day Shawn told us of his wife's diagnosis of breast cancer and discussed his new project. He was seeking suggestions for a catchy title. *Breast Choices for the Best Chances: Your Breasts, Your Life, and How You Can Win the Battle!* is the result, and the book is now available for Kindle at <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00750RJSY> and in paperback at <https://wwwcreatespace.com/3695592>.



# Passages

By Marion Lane

## New Board Member



Sheila Page

Bryna at Westminster 2012

DWAA's newest board member, elected on February 12, 2012, is Illinois resident Bryna Comsky, whose involvement in the dog sport dates back to 1969, when she acquired her first Canaan Dog, an Israeli breed first imported to the United States in 1965. "They saw me coming," says Bryna, who soon found herself immersed in the effort to gain AKC recognition of the breed—a process that took the better part of thirty years.

A Chicago public school teacher who taught German as well as English and Special Education, Bryna took on the task of translating from German the book *Pariahunde*, the seminal text on Canaan Dogs, and has further promoted the breed through articles for the *Gazette*, *Dog Fancy* and *Dog News*.

She is a regular contributor to the *Kibitzer*, the parent club's quarterly newsletter.

A DWAA member since 1987, Bryna is a staunch supporter of the DWAA/Westminster connection and hopes the DWAA "will continue to provide an annual homecoming venue for dog writers at the time of Westminster Week"; on a practical level, she would like to see DWAA evolve to meet the needs of "technically oriented communicators."



Bryna with friend Ida at Meet the Breeds, 2011

Amanda Pough

### Robert T. Self, Sr. 1924-2012

Obedience icon Robert T. Self, Sr., of Galesburg, IL, passed away on February 11, 2012. He was 88 years old.

Bob Self, a high school science teacher by profession, did as much as any individual to promote the sport of obedience in the United States. From training and handling his own dogs, Bob soon began to teach others to train their dogs to compete. Obedience was exploding in popularity, and as handlers and dogs became more competitive, Bob began to host training clinics, seminars and intensive training camps to meet the ever-growing demand for training tips that could sharpen performance. Still it wasn't enough. In 1971 Bob cofounded *Front & Finish*, a weekly newspaper dedicated to obedience enthusiasts across the country. He also published training manuals under the name *Dogs Self-Trained*. *F&F* spent many years in newsprint before becoming a magazine, and is now an ezine. *F&F* today covers a variety of competitive performance events besides obedience. Many a DWAA member's first publishing credits came from *Front & Finish*, and several current members are regular correspondents.



DWAA had the good sense to induct Bob Self into its Hall of Fame in 2009. Although unable to come to the banquet in New York to accept his award, Bob proudly hung his plaque in the offices of *Front & Finish*.

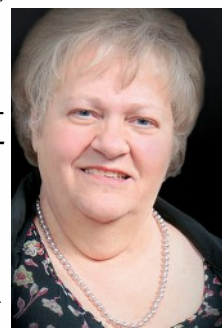
### Sally J. Liddick 1946-2012

It was by accident that I became a professional dog groomer in 1980. My first dog, a Yorkie, led me, just for the heck of it, to take an evening course at a dog grooming school in Manhattan. Within a year, I'd quit my day job to run my own pet grooming salon. A sole proprietor, I'd never imagined such isolation.

Enter Groom-O-Grams. I don't know what list I'd gotten myself on, but all of a sudden, I was receiving samples of these cheerful little pre-printed cards that were designed to support me and my small business. They came to me with a cover letter from someone I didn't know, someone named Sally Liddick.

Sally began to publish Groom-O-Grams in 1979, the same year that I took my grooming course and started my business. The Groom-O-Gram was an educational tool for grooming clients, intended to support the groomer by encouraging better at-home care and more frequent appointments. Other products followed, and today Sally's business, Barkleigh Productions, Inc., is a veritable pet-care industry featuring seminars, expos, trade shows, competitions, a club for groomers, an online store, publications, and more. Her *Groomer-to-Groomer* magazine became the voice of the industry. Sally did much to bring a new level of professionalism to pet groomers nationwide.

Sally became a member of DWAA in 1978. She will be missed.



Afghan Hound Club of America

All proceeds to Afghan Rescue afghanhound.net ~\$15.00

# 2011 Rescue Calendar

"The Hounds First"

Doug Vinson



*Best Poster,  
Calendar,  
or  
Special  
Publication*

*Joanne Anderson  
and  
Marilyn Danko*



Pat Santi  
Secretary  
173 Union Road  
Coatesville, Pa. 19320

Presorted  
Standard  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Warnerville, NY  
Permit #5



[www.dwaa.org](http://www.dwaa.org)