

# ruff DRAFTS

Summer 2019

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# President's

# COLUMN

By **Carol Bryant**

DWAA PRESIDENT

Hello Fellow DWAA members!

It's summertime, and DWAA is sizzling hot with announcements. Your faithful team has been working diligently behind the scenes to bring our members some new offerings.

By the time this issue of *Ruff Drafts* goes to print, the DWAA website will be in full relaunch mode. DWAA member **Jill Caren**, owner of 2 Dogs Media and our new web designer and host, worked feverishly to get the site up and running. If you haven't been to the website in a while, be sure to log on. In addition to the bells, whistles and a sleek design, the site is user-friendly and 21st century fast.

We'll be posting 2020 banquet and awards tickets for sale on the site, but *Ruff Drafts* readers are the first to learn where the event will be held. Banquet Chair **Darlene Bryant** facilitated an amazing deal for DWAA, and our event will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2020, at the Holiday Inn Secaucus Meadowlands, 300 Plaza Drive, Secaucus, New Jersey. The hotel is only 5.2 miles from Madison Square Garden, and the dinner will be an Italian buffet. There are many surprises in store, so please follow along on the blog and be sure you are subscribed to the DWAA email newsletter.

Event keynote speakers will be announced in July as well. Our Contest Chair, will be posting the forms for the 2019 competition on the website in early July.

If you haven't been on DWAA's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter



**Carol Bryant, President of the DWAA**

and Instagram), stop by and see what's new. We're honoring our members and the DWAA legacy while embracing technology and a digital age to attract more members to this esteemed organization.

As part of our sizzling summer theme, stay tuned for a members-only Facebook group to complement the Yahoo! group.

In my first President's message I promised the team would work hard to serve its members, and that's just what we've been doing. I look forward to your feedback on the new site as well as connecting with you on social media and the blog.

I'm always just a mouse click away, so please stop by to say hello at [FidoseofReality.com](http://FidoseofReality.com) or [carol@fidoseofreality.com](mailto:carol@fidoseofreality.com).

Enjoy your summer, stay cool and bask in the glow of all the offerings DWAA provides.

With Wags,  
Carol Bryant

By **Merrie Meyers**

Dear DWAA Members:

Congratulations to one and all! We survived another winter.

Where I live in south Florida, spring came only for a brief moment. Now, summer has announced itself. It's dead-ly hot and humid. Without daily water-ing, the plants I spent so much time (and money) tending over the winter will burn up. Even with automatic wa-tering timers, without the weekly rain showers, hand watering is also required.

Mangoes seem to thrive regardless of the weather, and my house is shaded (and plagued) by a very tall and prolif-ic Mango tree. It's mango season and they are dropping and dropping and dropping! It's startling to hear them hit (dive bomb) the roof in the middle of the night. Each morning, I compete with the squirrels, blue jays, opossums and raccoons living in my yard to see who can get to the fresh mangoes first. Mangoes left half eaten on the ground fill the air with an overly sweet scent, and juice that stains the concrete pav-ers. The bugs, however, are thrilled with the opportunity to feast. Yuk. Ironical-ly, I am allergic to mango sap. So, I go about my daily collection looking eerily like a beekeeper, covered in protective gear; gloves and often a bandana over my mouth and nose.

Rather than wait for rain to provide much needed moisture, and the end of mango season, I am headed to the mountains for a while to cool off.

My travels will be lighter this summer. Little Simmi (Simone) left us in early May,



**Merrie Meyers, Editor of Ruff Drafts**

just days shy of her 15th birthday. The ravages of renal failure finally took their toll, and her little body just couldn't take it. Godspeed, Simone. Now, Sunny – who was always number two out of two in the pack – and I are redefining our rela-tionship and we will spend the coming months figuring things out.

One of the ways we will move for-ward is by spending a great deal of time outdoors. We will greet the morning on the back deck, watching the humming-birds sip their nectar and sipping our beverages of choice; me coffee, him wa-ter. We will walk the hills and look at the emergent rhododendrons and hydran-geas. He will dig in the dirt to unearth the scent from a recent animal, perhaps a deer or bear, crossing the road with her young.

*See EDITOR'S LETTER pg 11*

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### ISSUE DEADLINES

Spring, March 1  
Summer, June 1  
Fall, September 1  
Winter, December 1

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# SUMMER FUN?

## Dog-friendly Festivals and the Open Ontario Road

By **Sherri Telenko**

Memorial Day, Victoria Day, May Two-Four Weekend, whatever you call it, it's the first long weekend of the summer, and start of dog festival season.

May 24, 2019, at **Dog Bowl** in Frankenmuth, Michigan, launched what will be three months of non-stop weekend pet fun for my dog Victor and me. From big annual festivals attracting people from afar, to local park fundraisers for rescues, we'll be looking for a dog-friendly event somewhere every weekend this summer.

Why? Because taking my dog along is good for pet and fur parent bonding, good for developing him socially and good for me to get some exercise. Pet festivals are not for the lethargic.

To begin our season of adventure, Victor and I jumped in the car and drove

four hours to Dog Bowl, because we hadn't been before. This meant, however, sacrificing our annual trek an hour from home to **Woofstock** in Toronto, Ontario, which claims status as one of the biggest dog festivals in North America.

Vendors, products and samples are the focus of Woofstock, taking over Toronto's Woodbine Park for two days in May. Performances, contests, a lure course, thanks to Dog Lovers Days--who will also be at the Novi Pet Expo in November--and a VIP tent, which requires pre-registration, are there, too. Dog Bowl, however, focuses on activities: lure courses attract active pups, while seasoned competitors, sign-up for the International Disc Dog event and dock diving. Even sheep herding border collies make an appearance.

Among our plans this summer to attend almost a pet festival a weekend with my adventurous (albeit aging) cocker spaniel/poodle cross, there are a few unique experiences we're looking forward to:

June 22 and 23 sees the running of the **Third Annual Ruff Mudder** in Stayner, Ontario, Canada. Cottage country is known for the great outdoors and plenty of hiking trails. This event sees participants with their dogs run a 5K race over 80 muddy obstacles through forest and field. We're going to

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**COVER PHOTO:** Spectators at Kingston, Ontario's annual Sheep Herding Trials dog-friendly festival.

**THIS PAGE:** Celebrating Woofstock in Toronto, Canada, North America's biggest annual dog-festival. *Photos: Sherri Telenko.*



Annual Muddy Paws Wine Festival starting at Featherstone Estate Winery in Ontario's Niagara Region. Photo: Sherri Telenko.

skip the 'mudder' part but plan to take advantage of the Doga option--Yoga with your dog--at 1pm on Saturday.

July 6 and 7, I'll be wine tasting with my dog (me, not him) at the **Muddy Paws Wine Festival** in Vineland, Ontario: wine country in Canada. We've done this dog-friendly winery event before starting at Vineland Estates Winery then walking through the vineyards, then along a segment of Niagara's Bruce Trail leading to the second winery, Featherstone Estates, about a 20-minute walk (without stopping to sniff). Vendors, live music and a wine tent greets us there. My dog's definitely getting his 'barrel' portraits done this year--professional photos taken in the wine cellar for an extra fee.

August 9 to 11 will put us back in Kingston, Ontario, for the **Kingston Sheepdog Trials**. I love the skill and concentration of sheep herding collies. Watching the competition is mesmerizing as handlers whistle cues at dogs to move groups of four or more sheep

toward the end goal: inside a closed-door pen. Unless you've got a trained herding dog registered in the competition, this is not an interactive pet event. However, curious canines are welcome at the festival and can try out either an agility or lure course.

### CONSIDERATIONS WHEN I TAKE MY DOG ALONG

I love new experiences and my crazy little mutt likes being taken along. But he isn't perfect. He has some reactive issues I don't always understand or predict, though after seven years, I'm getting better at it. When taking him to crowded events, here are a few things I keep in mind:

- **Outdoor Festivals Only** – My dog insists on proper greetings from other canines – yes, back to front – and can't stand being rushed in the face. Many other dog owners don't understand this is rude behaviour and let it happen. Outdoors gives us space to maneuver away from crowds and move away from people who aren't paying attention to their pups. I'm particularly cautious around vendor tables because more than once, a

wet-nosed surprise has popped out from underneath. Now that my dog is older, a stroller helps a lot.

- **Use a harness** – Speaking of equipment, I use only non-retractable leashes (most events don't allow retractables, anyway) and a harness around his body rather than tugging on his neck. Leashes that attach to my belt loops are even better.
- **Bring Extra Water and Bags** – Many festivals have 'public' water bowls for four-footed attendees, but sharing isn't for everyone. Last year at **Paw-looza** in London, Ontario, the water station washed each bowl between users. Few festivals have the volunteers to do that, so either bring your own portable water dish or accept a public bowl; it's likely cleaner than drinking out of puddles. Of course, stoop-and-scoop is mandatory at all events and rest assured other participants will let you know. 🐾

Sherri Telenko is a college instructor, freelance writer, member of the American Dog Writer's Association and publisher of [www.dogtrotting.net](http://www.dogtrotting.net), a blog about global travel for dog lovers.



Finishing the course at the annual Kingston Sheep Herding Trials in Kingston, Ontario. Photo: Sherri Telenko.



# Beach Walk

As told to **Barbara E. Magera MD, PharmD, MMM**

Predawn sunlight peeks above the horizon. Sparkling sea waves rhythmically hug the shore. Imbedded in the soft sand are treasures of brightly colored shells and white sand dollars. Seagulls drift overhead in perfect alignment. A yellow beaked gull breaks cadence and swoops through the waves to catch a tasty mid-morning meal. I am out for my morning beach walk with my mom. She is walking briskly at a near jogging pace while I am trotting beside her. The warm seawater gently laps upon my paws. As we pass by tourists, joggers and beach goers, warm smiles and nodding heads approve of our morning rit-

ual of “power walking” on the beach. An elderly beach walker stoops to scratch behind my ears. He comments on how beautiful and well-mannered I am. I lick his hand. He laughs.

Mom pulls out a rubber ball and tosses it in the shallow water close to the shore. Instinctively, I chase the ball as it bounces along the gentle waves. I nimbly retrieve the floating toy and jump swiftly through the seawater towards her.

Suddenly, a loud bellow booms across the harbor. Startled, I lose my clench on the ball. I turn my muzzle towards the horizon. Our eyes focus upon the distance to catch a glimpse of a massive container ship. A baritone

**“Sunrise” photographed by Deborah Milling, MD, Sullivan’s Island, South Carolina.**

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reverberation announces its majestic entrance into Charleston Harbor.

Mom caresses my wet body. She hugs and kisses me to assure me that everything is OK. She then retrieves my floating ball. We resume our fun game of fetch and catch.

The familiar call of shore birds begging for food fills the sea mist air. Masts of shrimp boats bob in the waves. A steady stream of hungry gulls and pelicans follow in their wake. Closer to shore, dolphins jump and play in the morning surf. Occasionally, you can

*See BEACH WALK pg 15*

# The Great Outdoors

## And the Dogs Who Love It

By **Ted Slupik**

No doubt about it, dogs love to be outside. Whether they are playing or working, they love to be in the fresh air! Perhaps the fact that their sensory abilities are even more pronounced when they are outside makes whatever the activity is more enjoyable to them. So, regardless for the purpose of being in the great outdoors, they seem to enjoy themselves immensely.

The Morton Arboretum, located in Lisle, Illinois, is a public garden and outdoor museum. Its grounds cover 1,700 acres, a little over four square miles. It has thousands of plants, trees and streams to enjoy. The Arboretum was started by Mr. Joy Morton. Mr. Morton was the founder of Morton Salt Company. Most days, the Arboretum is filled with people walking, hiking and running, taking in the fresh air.

Twice a year, the Arboretum opens its gates for a day to about 6,000 people and 2,000 dogs for an event called "Tails on the Trails." Exhibitors at the event are

not-for-profit organizations that come to solicit help for their animal organization. There are various animal shelters, rescues and breed-specific rescues. Some special dog charities are also invited.

I am part of a dog charity named "Lizzy's Fund" ([lizzysfund.org](http://lizzysfund.org)) that participates annually. The Fund is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that financially supports senior dogs (aged 7 and older) in rescues or shelters. Lizzy's Fund was established in 2012 to benefit senior dogs by providing funds for medical care to help the dogs get healthy and adoptable.

This year we took along Pixie, a 10-year-old Papillion, along with Rosebud, a rough-coated collie. Senior dogs are our best ambassadors to attract people to our booth to hear about the senior dog story. We also had help from two junior high school volunteers, Kathryn and Lauren. They helped by talking to the booth's visitors about the Fund and also managed the kids' games.

The combination of being in an outdoor venue and thousands of visitors in one day stimulates the dogs' senses to a maximum. The dogs are very excited to meet people and almost compete against each other for attention as passersby constantly come up to greet them almost without interruption.

Dogs' greatest senses, as compared to humans, are smell and hearing. It's overwhelming to be greeted and petted and talked to continuously during a seven-hour marathon. Being outside accentuates these senses. Who hasn't had a dog that could hear the refrigerator door open or a wrapper crinkle as they come to you full speed to see what you might have for them from the opposite end of the house? When you think about it, from the dogs' perspective, they were almost treated as royalty at this event.

- "What is your name, Your Royal Highness"?
- "Can I pet you, Your Royal Highness"?
- "You are so pretty, Your Royal Highness".
- "What a beautiful dog you are, Your Royal Highness".

The dogs share their love and affection back to the strangers they just met. Being in an outdoor setting seems to make the dogs even friendlier. The dogs are also part of some activities:

- Pictures with your pet (and, yes, some dogs do smile)
- The Grand Prize Game where everyone wins a prize for dropping a ball in a bucket.
- Balls and toys giveaways (sometimes humans participate)



**Kathryn**



**Lauren**

*See GREAT OUTDOORS pg 11*

# Meet our

# NEW MEMBERS

## Eleanor Green Winters

At 62, Eleanor Green Winters “re-tired” into a new career with the birth of her first litter of puppies. Awestruck by birthing and raising pups, she shares her keep-it-simple philosophy with tips

gleaned from 17 litters over 17 years.

“First time anything can be scary, be it a first litter, finding a good breeder, even adopting or rescuing your first dog” she admits.

Dubbing herself a Grandma Moses of authors, Eleanor’s first book journeys

a reassuring and enjoyable overview of raising puppies from pregnancy to placement. The fun starts immediately with her accurate yet humorous title, *So Your Bitch is Pregnant*.

## Gene Maddox

Gene Maddox has published more than 100 articles, primarily in technology and business magazines. A now-retired tech-company founder, he plans on directing much of his time, and all his future writing efforts, toward dog-related materials. His key project will be a Lhasa Apso-centric rescue dog memoir.

Over the years, Gene and his wife Linda have welcomed a number of rescue dogs into their East Tennessee-based family. His article about a favorite of these, “Moose: The Story of a Lhasa Apso,” was a years-ago Maxwell Medallion winner for Best Individual Feature Article in a Single-Breed Magazine.

He blogs at [dogfamilies.com](http://dogfamilies.com).

## Judi Eastman

Judi Eastman never considered herself a writer, which is strange because she has been writing her entire life. Her career as an art director, media and theatre producer was front and center until she lost her two beloved Borzoi (Russian Wolfhounds). She found herself writing night and day, as a fictional account of their lives poured out into *LONG NOSE LEGACY: A Dog’s Story of Royalty and Loyalty*, a novel for middle grade children and all dog lovers. She realized her true passion is being an author, and what could be better than writing about what we love – dogs!



Eleanor Green Winters



Judi Eastman being kissed  
by her two Borzoi

Judi is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and the Independent Book Publishers Association, but her most treasured membership is here among other dog writers. She lives on the California coast with her husband and two show Borzoi, who are related to the dogs that inspired her book.

## Sassafras Lowrey

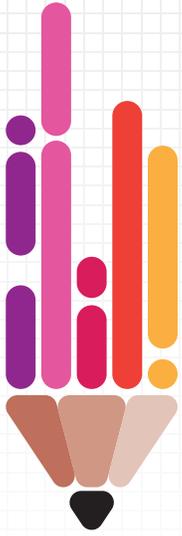
Sassafras Lowrey is an award-winning author and Certified Trick Dog Instructor. Sassafras' books have been honored by organizations ranging from the American Library Association to the Lambda Literary Foundation. New dog books from Sassafras in 2019 include: *Healing/Heeling*, *Bedtime Stories for Rescue Dogs: William To The Rescue* (with Lili Chin), and *TRICKS IN THE*

*CITY: For Daring Dogs and the Humans That Love Them* (forthcoming in August from Mango Press).

Sassafras is a regular contributor to regional and national dog magazines based in Portland, Oregon. Learn more at [www.SassafrasLowrey.com](http://www.SassafrasLowrey.com)



Gene Maddox



# TIPS & TACTICS

## Pitching and Punting

By **Merrie Meyers**

For many of you, pitching a story is a no-brainer. You could do it in your sleep. You have a solid reputation of delivering for a chosen media outlet, and they only have to read one or two sentences to know that your idea will be what their readers/listeners/viewers want. Or maybe you have a client or an employer who depends on you to craft their stories for insertion into company publications, and so you're just waiting for the next assignment.

But the rest of us, me included, are in the position of having to pour our ideas onto a computer screen in the hopes that someone on the other end of the screen will be as enthused as we are about your proposed idea. So, how do you turn a pitch into an engagement? Here are some tips about marketing your ideas that can give you the edge over other writers.

### 1. DON'T WAIT TO DEVELOP AN IDEA.

I have a digital file folder (and a paper one as well) of ideas that I think could be developed into interesting stories. Ideas don't care who they happen to. I get mine from news stories, conversations with friends or just driving around.

A thought might come to you that can be used with the right opportunity. If an editor or client asks if you have any thoughts/ideas/research on a topic, this file will come in handy.

### 2. FIND THE RIGHT OUTLET FOR YOUR IDEA.

Make sure you are pitching something to a media entity that is actually in their wheelhouse/editorial realm. An old standby, *The Writer's Market 2019*, \$14.99 at bookstores and Amazon, offers a plethora of information on who is interested in what. They also have an interactive website that is available on a subscription basis, [writersmarket.com/](http://writersmarket.com/). Of course, you can also consult your friendly, local librarian. They may offer access to additional resources free of charge (and you can probably also use their copy of the *Writer's Market*).

### 3. DO THE RESEARCH.

So, you've got a publication that you think might be interested in your work. But, when was the last time they ran something on this topic? Do the research and make sure it wasn't last month's cover story. Or, if it was last month's cover story, figure out an angle

that will expand on what was presented in a new and unique way.

### 4. COVER THE BASICS.

Your pitch should include a clear focus on the idea (vagaries need not apply). Layout the general approach you will take and offer a brief, general outline of the piece. The pitch should show off your writing skills, and detail your experience with writing, the topic, or familiarity with any other element that builds your credibility and solidifies the reason you should be the writer selected to provide this content. But, above all, be brief. One page, over and done!

### 5. UNDERSTAND RESPONSE TIME.

Hopefully, in the editorial guidelines that the outlet offers it will say how long to expect to wait for a response; two to four weeks, four to six weeks. This will often depend on the editorial calendar (how often they publish, etc.)

### 6. FOLLOW UP.

Sometimes publications will dawdle in responding to new proposals. After waiting the stated amount of time, don't be shy about following up to see if they are still considering your idea.

Like anyone else, editors are often overworked and even great ideas can fall through the cracks. If they're not (and, gosh, wouldn't it have been nice to get a rejection so you could move on?) you can consider plan B.

## 7. START OVER.

After you get a response (declining your idea), you can submit the pitch to another publication/outlet. Unless you want to burn a bridge with one or both of the outlets, it's not a good idea to submit to two entities at the same time UNLESS you are using the same set of facts/research/experiences but presenting them in entirely different ways. Perhaps you have collected a lot of information about training hunting dogs. Perhaps one pitch is about contemporary use of bird dogs, another could be about the historical development of the practice.

Regardless of the subject, following these steps will help you introduce yourself, present your ideas and hopefully lead to a future engagement. 🐾

## Editor's Letter

*Continued from pg 3*

We will attend outdoor concerts and maybe visit our local vineyard. We will walk in town and lunch at patio restaurants. In short, we will experience all that Summer offers.

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy what waits outside your door. What will you do this summer?

This issue of *Ruff Drafts* is dedicated to exploring those pursuits. We put out a call for submissions, and you answered it. Thanks for sharing some of your adventures with the rest of us.

Whatever you do this summer, make it memorable. 🐾

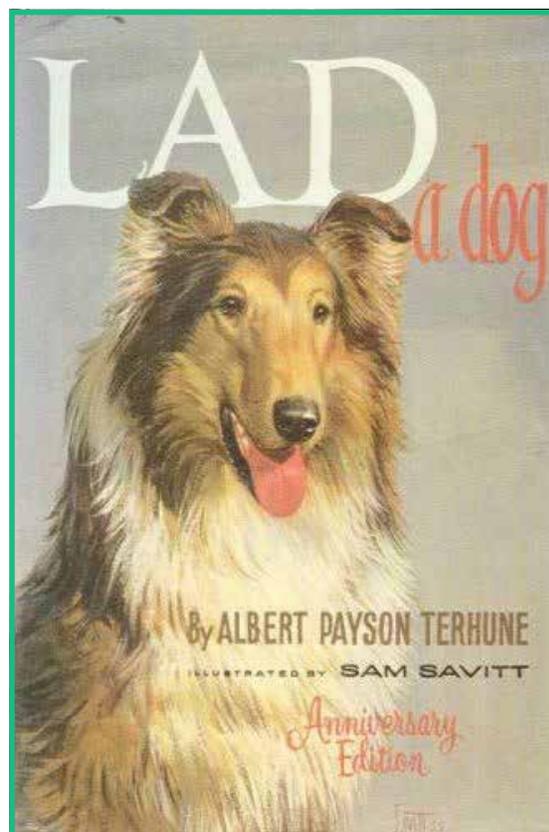
## Great Outdoors

*Continued from pg 7*

In addition to the fun social outdoor activity described above, there are some stories about the great outdoors with working dogs that started a number of years ago.

Albert Payson Terhune was a collie breeder and started writing books about his dogs in the early 20th century. He originally wrote short stories for *Redbook Magazine* which evolved into 30 plus books about his many dogs published from 1900 to 1942. His most famous stories began with *Lad (A Dog)* published in 1919. Most of the stories took place at Terhune's estate called Sunnybank. The content of the stories is supposedly based on true events. The dogs in the stories were almost human. They thought logically and their feelings shown through the stories. They were kind, compassionate and caring and Lad always seemed to do the right thing. They laughed, smiled and Lad, a rough-coated collie lived a good life of 16+ years at the Sunnybank Estate. After Lad, many other books about dogs followed; *Wolf (son of Lad)*, *Bruce*, *Chip*, *Grey Dawn*, and *Buff*. And most of all these stories relate to something that happened on the grounds of Sunnybank.

These Terhune books used to be required reading in junior high schools 40 years ago. I am not sure if they are even in the school libraries today. If you want to read just one of the books, pick up *Lad of Sunnybank*. It includes Lad's outdoor adventures

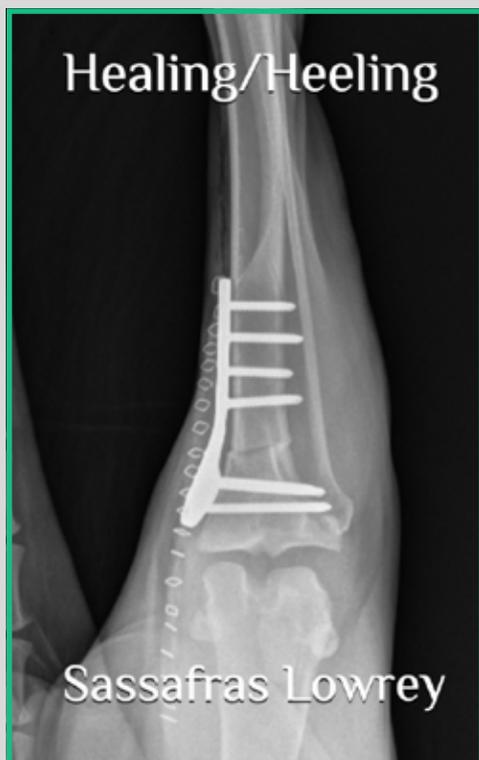


with all sorts of animals including a raccoon named Rameses and a crow named Zat. Also, Lad manages to capture a house thief and rescues a child from a well. (No, not Timmy, that would come years later.) Lad is the ultimate hero in stories of courage and loyalty in the face of danger.

The memory of Albert Payson Terhune is celebrated at an annual event in August called "The Gathering" at Pompton Lake in New Jersey. Collies and their owners are invited. I call it "Colliepalouza" where 300-400 collies gather. Shortly after Terhune died, the Eric Knight story of "Lassie Come Home" became a hit movie and the world came to love Lassie and the memory of Lad A Dog faded. But Terhune's books featured dogs in outdoor adventure after outdoor adventure. Curiously, Lad was the only dog allowed inside Terhune's house. The house is now gone but the beautiful grounds and lake remain. 🐾

# MEMBER NEWS

## Two New Books by Sassafras Lowrey



### HEALING/HEELING: A Hybrid Collection, Published May 2019

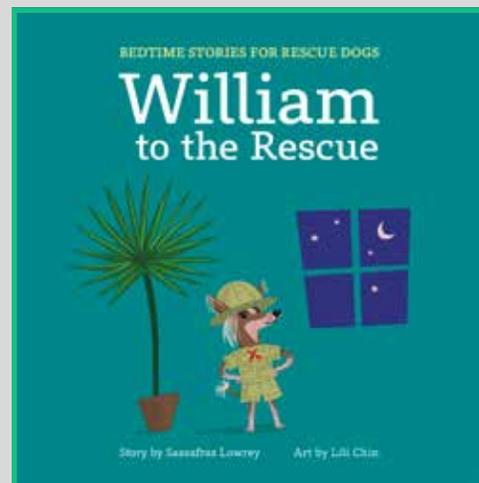
In *Healing/Heeling*, this collection of experimental lyric essays, Sassafras Lowrey explores queerness, PTSD, anxiety, and created family. A framing of Rally Obedience and Dog Agility course maps create a textured story on the page, a hybrid form in which Lowrey recounts a spiritual-like relationship to dogs beginning in childhood, a passion for dog shows fractured in adolescence with a period of homelessness, a service dog, anxiety, and a return to dog sports. This collection transcends Lowrey's personal relationship with dogs to tell a larger story about healing, loss, trauma, survival, and of course the love (and salvation) of many good dogs.

### Bedtime Stories For Rescue Dogs: WILLIAM TO THE RESCUE!, Published June 2019

Do you read to your dog? *Bedtime Stories For Rescue Dogs* is a series of picture books designed for pet parents to read to their dogs.

In *William To The Rescue*, William, an exuberant Chinese Crested who loves going on adventures with his dog walking friends. But when Momma goes on a business trip and is captured, William must set off on his biggest expedition yet — to bring her home!

The series highlights the bravery, resilience, and joy of rescue dogs. Written by Sassafras Lowrey, each book in the *Bedtime Stories For Rescue Dogs* series is produced in partnership with a different visual artist, and a portion of the proceeds from each book in the series benefits dog rescue groups. *William to the Rescue* brings together author Sassafras Lowrey and illustrator Lili Chin for a tender story featuring



**Sassafras Lowrey is the 2013 winner of the Lambda Literary Emerging Writer Award. Her books have been honored by organizations ranging from the National Leather Association to the American Library Association. Sassafras is a Certified Trick Dog Instructor (CTDI) and has achieved the honor of Trainer of the Year from Do More With Your Dog the first official trick dog titling organization. For more information on Lowrey's other publications and awards, you can visit her website, [www.SassafrasLowrey.com](http://www.SassafrasLowrey.com)**

Do you have news  
to share?

Send to Ruff Drafts Editor, Merrie Meyers at  
[merrie.meyers@gmail.com](mailto:merrie.meyers@gmail.com)

# A Hero of the Forgotten War Remembered

The courageous war horse Sergeant Reckless comes to life in literary form



Elwood and Loren

“Loren Spiotta-Dilmare has captured the essence of Reckless in a way children will adore. Thoughtfully written and beautifully illustrated, Sgt. Reckless will leap off the page and into your child's heart, and become their favorite hero.”

—Robin Hutton, Author of the New York Times Bestseller:  
*Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse*

She was a decorated Marine, a combat veteran and a horse. Now, she's the star of a new children's picture book. Aperture Press is pleased to announce the release of ***Sergeant Reckless: Hero War Horse***, written by Loren Spiotta-DiMare of Tewksbury Township, New Jersey and illustrated by Deborah DeShon of South Paris, Maine.

*Sergeant Reckless* is the true story of an amazing sorrel horse who served alongside the Marines during the Korean War. Trained to be a racehorse, Flame was destined to be a winner, but on the day of her first official race the war began. Forced to leave Seoul, her owner packed up his family and his beloved horse fleeing to a safer location. It would be two years before they were able to return.

During their time away, American troops arrived to help the South Koreans. Lieutenant Pederson, leader of the 5th Marine Division Recoilless Rifle Platoon, determined his men needed a pack horse to carry heavy ammunition up a steep mountain to the rifle station and to bring wounded Marines back down to safety. (The Recoilless Rifle has a huge, back blast. The men in the unit referred to it as the *Reckless Rifle*.)

Lieutenant Pederson discovered Flame at the Seoul racetrack. He instinctively knew she was the right horse for the important job that lay ahead. His men renamed her *Reckless* after their mighty weapon.

Reckless endured difficult training and combat and formed a deep attachment to her men during her tour of duty. However, she is best known for her bravery and commitment during

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the battle of Outpost Vegas, one of the most vicious battles of the war.

The Unit was unable to spare a man to lead Reckless over miles of rugged terrain, but that didn't stop her. She trudged up and down that mountain 51 times, covering 35 miles for over two days all by herself. Wounded twice she kept on going with courage and determination.

For her valiant efforts, Reckless was awarded two Purple Hearts, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal and a United Nations Service Medal. She retired with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

"This book is special to me on so many levels," says author and horse owner Spiotta-DiMare. I've seen a horse spook at a soda can so I can truly appreciate how brave Sgt. Reckless was on the battlefield. To say she was bomb-proof is an understatement."

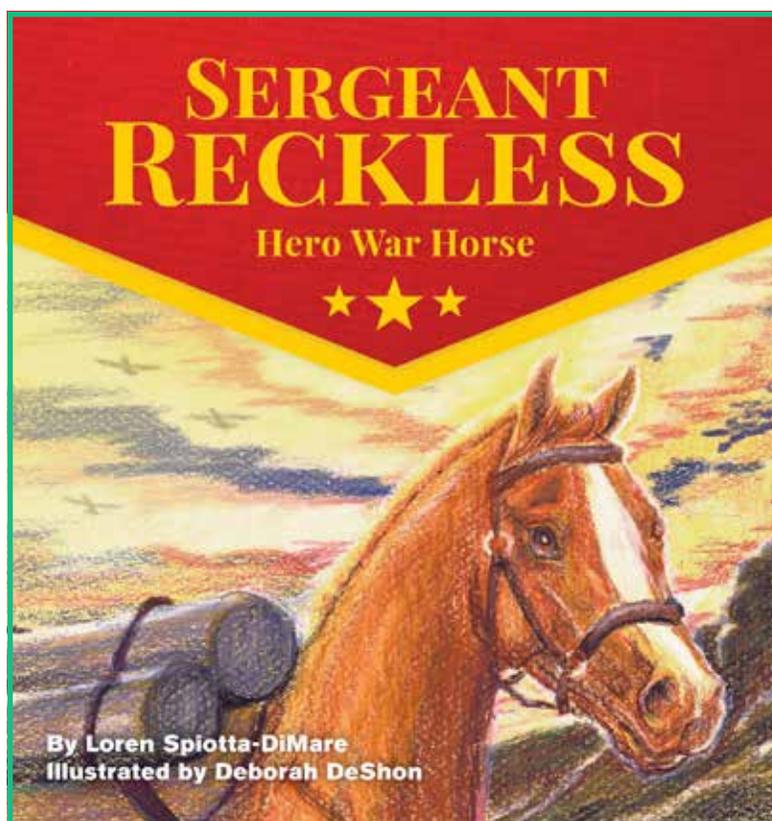
"Because horses are herd animals, I believe Reckless viewed the Marines in the unit as her herd. Her devotion to them was genuine and heartwarming."

"My father, who recently celebrated his 89th birthday, served as a Captain, Top Secret Control Officer of the 3rd Marine Air Wing during the Korean War. Though he didn't know Reckless personally, he loves horses and gave riding lessons as a young man. When I was seven-years-old he introduced me to the sport which inspired my lifelong passion for horses. Ironically, my beloved Quarter Horse, Elwood looks just like Reckless.

"The book is dedicated to my Dad, all the other men who served in the military during the Korean War, and to the memory of Sgt Reckless because she wasn't just a horse, she was a Marine."

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A lifelong animal lover, Loren Spiotta-DiMare has been writing about her



favorite subjects for 40 years. She lives in rural Northwestern New Jersey with her husband, Lou, several dogs, four rabbits, numerous pet birds, and a Koi pond. Loren's Quarter Horse, Elwood lives at a farm nearby. Loren and Elwood enjoy Western riding, working at liberty and trick training.

Over the course of her career, Loren has had 20 books published for both adults and children and numerous feature articles in regional and national magazines. Recognized by the Dog Writers Association of America, Humane Society of the United States, Doris Day Animal Foundation and New Jersey Press Women, Loren's work has been published both nationally and internationally.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Deborah DeShon grew up with horses and a love for art. She particularly enjoyed drawing and painting her beloved equine companions. Eventually, Debbie developed a passion for Endurance Racing. She liked the train-

ing, 100-mile rides, team effort, and the exhilaration of crossing the finish line. The sport took her all over the world as both a competitor and crew member.

Deb's love and knowledge of horses comes through in her beautiful pastel, watercolor and oil paintings. She is a member of the Western Maine Art Group. *Sergeant Reckless: Hero War Horse* is her second picture book for children. Deb and her husband, Jim have two children and four grandchildren.

A hardcover book, *Sergeant Reckless* lists for \$22.95. It's available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Books-A-Million. For an autographed copy contact: [author@LorensReadingRoom.com](mailto:author@LorensReadingRoom.com)

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# Beach Walk

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hear their comic cackles as they race along the shore.

Mom gives me a drink of bottled water. As we refresh ourselves, a young woman approaches me with outstretched arms. "My, what a beautiful dog," she exclaims. My mom explains that I am not an ordinary dog but a Cavalier show dog. The woman caresses my head in her soft hands telling me how she admires my playful smile and deep brown eyes.

As we continue on our shoreline journey, mom motions for me to walk with her up the steps of the pier. At the top of the stairs are outdoor showers of various heights. Mom rinses the soft sand from my fur and paws. I instinctively shake the water from my coat. The pier is brand new, so the boards are smooth and clean. We continue our power walk. As we walk down the long pier, I see a little ball of fur approaching us. As the

image comes closer, it is a white and black Shih Tzu at the end of a pink lead. Mom stops to chat with her owner. The Shih Tzu is forthright about sniffing me. I hear my mom's excitement about our adventures at dog shows. The little Shih Tzu is clearly interested in me. Now, she is jumping in the salt air. She lands gently on her front paws with her rump held high. Her tail is wagging furiously. She cocks her face to one side. She is irresistible. We begin to romp and play. While we are getting boisterous with cooing barks and squeals, Mom smiles and picks me up in her arms. As she says goodbye to the Shih Tzu's owner, mom glides down the pier planks towards home. I smell her happiness.

As we walk toward our marsh-front home, the distinct aroma of pluff mud and marsh grass fills our nostrils. Purple fountain grass sways in the sea breeze. In the distance, a single church bell rings out a welcome invitation for

Morning Prayer in the white clad seaside chapel. Mom pauses to recite her meditation of thankfulness to the Almighty for all good things bestowed on us, including our morning meal. Then, we relax on our screened outdoor porch to eat. We can hear the gentle lapping of marsh water. It is high tide. The marsh waves move in unison with the gentle rhythms of the Spanish moss tangling from the limbs of mighty oak trees. This picturesque landscape begs a midmorning nap. I settle into a soft, overstuffed doggie bed and groggily dream a reenactment of our morning activities. Our time spent bonding and relaxing at home rejuvenates our bodies and spirits. I am grateful for my family and our peaceful home located in a charming Southern city. 🐾

**Barbara E. Magera MD, PharmD, MMM (Caracaleeb)** is a Cavalier fancier who lives and practices medicine in Charleston, South Carolina.

# Dog Days of Summer

By **Sassafras Lowrey**

Summer with my dogs is morning walks as the sun comes up as they sniff dew dusted grass.

Summer is evening strolls as dusk settles coolness through the neighborhood.

Summer is long weekend hikes dipping feet (two and four) in mountain streams

Summer is days on the beach paws slicing waves.

Summer is exploring tide pools at low tide following the trails of crabs and chasing waves.

Summer is my tiny retired service dog "surfing" on his favorite inflatable while the big dogs swim and wade in salty sea water.

Summer is giving my former street dog the biggest life possible and showing her how beautiful the world can be.

Summer is my Newfoundland communing with her water dog ancestors retrieving her orange buoy again and again and again in the waves.



Summers are dogs in baby pools splashing in the backyard. Summer is chasing sky raisins (flies) and watching fireflies. Summer is heeling patterns in the park and agility in the backyard.

Summer is lapping up pupsicles.

Summer with my dogs is a time of adventure and relaxation. Summer is play, travel, vacation but most of all finding joy in nature, and all being together.



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## **Roxie**

*By Janice Biniok*



*Wake up! Don't you know that writers always  
get their best ideas at 2:00 a.m.?*