NEBCA News - Volume 28, Issue 1. March, 2010



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHEAST BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION, INC.

WWW.NEBCA.NET

Brace for impact!



Brushing the snow off our boots and the rust off our whistles, we're all preparing for the new season.

At least BorderCollics Anonymous are!

It could be considered rather bad form to praise a piece of advertising editors have been fired for less - but credit the Drummonds for having the gumption to recognize that this organ can sell product - good product to boot. And a fine

piece of creative advertising it is too.

In this issue we also tread boldly where few fear to tread with a well-written essay by Kathy Keats on the cultural conflict between different breeds of Border Collie owners.

Beverly Lambert sings the praises of Mirk, last year's NEBCA High Points winner. Debra Mickey and Janet Lindsey cast a tearful eye over old friends.

First prize for originality

goes to Maria Amodei for an article on the invasive nature of hay.

Trial Reports and Results consist of a double shot of Long Shot and a thankyou note from the Trials Committee for a job well done at last year's Fall Foliage.

On the housekeeping front, minutes of the Annual Meeting in Albany are presented along with the Trial Schedule for the upcoming season.

The menu is rounded off by a tasty pictorial morsel of a brush wolf's dramatic participation in last summer's trial in Kingston, Ontario. We also review Sweetgrass - a remarkable film about western style sheepherding in Montana.

Finally, don't forget to check out the new classifieds ads and Breeders' Directory on the back page.

Happy Trials in 2010!

Joe Evans - Editor

The Northeast Border Collie Association Mission.....

.....IS TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE BORDER COL-ILIE AS A WORKING STOCK DOG THROUGH THE SANC-TIONING AND REGULATION OF COMPETITIVE HERDING TRIALS BY PROVIDING IN-FORMATION ON TRAINING, HEALTH AND BREEDING.

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are \$20 individual or \$25 per farm/family. Renewals are due by Jan 1. New members may join at any time. If joining after October 1, you will automatically be paid through the following year. To join or renew your membership, send your name and address along with your dues to: The Secretary, NEBCA, Maria Mick, 750 Meadowdale Rd., Altamont, NY 12009.

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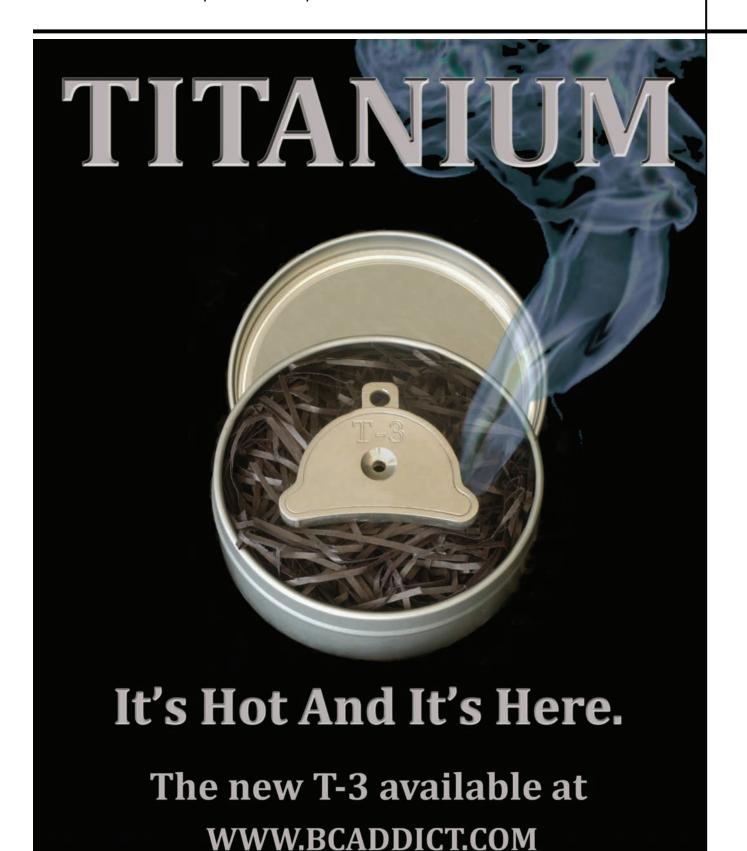
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Cultures in Conflict: Sheepdog Trialling and Agility by Kathy Keats

l've always loved Border Collies, but when I read Donald McCaig's *Eminent Dogs, Dangerous Men* over a decade ago, he opened my eyes to a different world – over a century of history, partnership and respect. At the time I didn't have access to sheep or good instruction, so I became involved with agility to give my young Border Collie an outlet. I've been involved in agility for almost 14 years, yet I could never get the allure of sheepdog trialling out of my mind and gradually became more involved.

Sheepdog trialling has been a massive learning curve for me, and probably always will be. Training and running a sheepdog doesn't fit nicely into a box. There are so many dynamics, so many innate talents that need to be nurtured according to the dog's temperament that learning about sheepdogs is a lifetime journey (never mind trying to sort out what those woolly things might be thinking about).

I recently overheard an experienced sheepdog handler remark that some agility people had said to her something to the effect that "you are going to have to let us in [to herding]" as if they felt the sheepdog community was an elitist group trying to keep them out. To get a sheepdog ready, the journey is long, the requirements and expectations are very different from agility, and the commitment really turns into a lifestyle. I suppose that might feel like insurmountable obstacles to someone who wants to herd. Unfortunately, the agility world is as different from sheepdog trialling as night is from day, and it is very difficult for an agility person to really understand the sheepdog culture.

I remember running a one-day agility clinic and as my students were coming in, they were setting up EZ-Up tents, grass mats, dog beds, crates, x-pens, chairs, tarps, you name it. A herding workshop was about to run on a different part of the property. The herding clinician walked by and asked in a shocked, slightly concerned voice "How long are they staying for? I thought it was a one day event?" In contrast, the

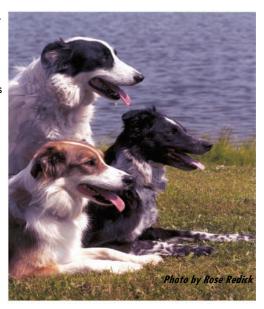
herding participants had dog, chain, crook... that was it, maybe a chair. Very practical, very work oriented. I had to laugh; it did look a bit like the carnival had come to town on my side of the tracks.

Agility is an urban, pet oriented activity that almost any one can do with their pet dog. Many people can have equipment in their backyard. In agility, the culture is all-positive, rev the dogs up, go for speed on the edge, don't do anything that might decrease the dog's drive, such as say "no". They have to build drive for an activity the dog has no natural innate desire to do. A time-out is the accepted means of letting the dog know you didn't like something. It's acceptable for dogs to jump up on you, it's okay for them to bark, it's normal for them to pull on leash. all in the name of motivation. Most sheepdog people shudder at the thought. The agility people don't see anything wrong with it. Many agility people are mortified by the idea of telling a dog off or giving even a mild leash correction. Of course, agility people don't get run down by the equipment, so there isn't that edge of "you need to listen to me or I could get really hurt" mentality.

So, here we are, two cultures that are at polar ends of the continuum. One activity is based in work and practicality, and the other based on speed and entertainment. Admittedly as I evolve, I become less tolerant of dogs with poor manners in the name of "speed" and "motivation". Yet the growth and long-term health of a sport or organization depends on continually strengthening the grass roots. Sheepdog trialling is a long hard road, good dogs are hard to find and access to good training and sheep is not easy to come by (excuse the pun). The dog world is small, and the sheepdog world even more so. Many people are becoming further removed from rural life and don't realize the importance of maintaining the ability of real working dogs.

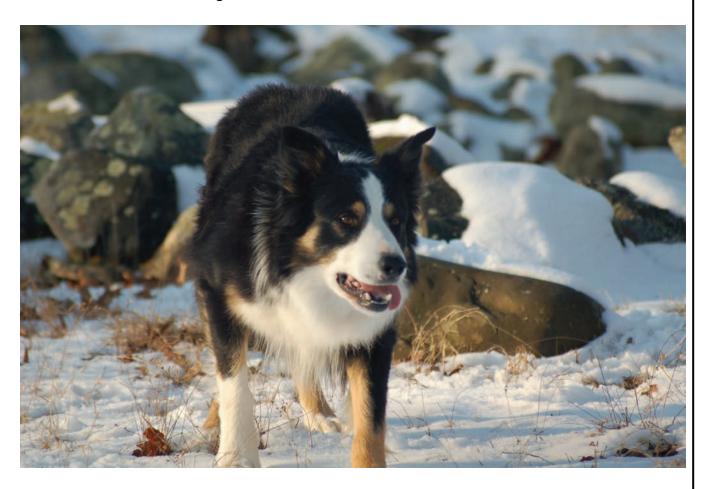
To them, herding is just a sport. They have no concept of what these amazing dogs are really capable of and what it takes to get them there. New people often come from a background that encourages being satisfied with a performance because they receive a ribbon instead of seeing the correct handling of livestock as the real prize. They aren't always encouraged to press on to higher levels, even if it results in taking a few knocks along the way.

If we simply brush those people off, we lose the opportunity to educate them. As the number of beginners increases, by default they start to have an influence on trialling. By trying to patiently mentor, without compromising the principles and mentality required of a good working dog, we take a leadership position and help to mold an appropriate attitude toward sheepdog trialling, as well as preserve the knowledge and experience of seasoned handlers. Although the demands of sheepdog trialling may always restrict the numbers involved at the highest levels, hopefully people from other dog sports will learn to respect the culture, heritage, and legacy of the sheepdog, and will open their minds to a world that transcends dog sport.



No conflict here!

Mirk - 2009 NEBCA High Points Winner by Beverly Lumbert



Three years ago at the end of the trial season I retired Pippa. It was hard to do, as she seemed like a girl who could win forever, but it was time. The following spring at the second trial of the year I realized that dog trialing without her wasn't going to be as much fun or nearly as successful. So I was in a very vulnerable place in my life when Florence Wilson ran Mirk at Borders-on-Paradise and she then decided that they just didn't suit each other. So I bought him on a spur of the moment sort of thing, similar to buying a new pair of shoes because you're feeling sad. It worked. He cheered me up enormously and it was nice to have him to cheer me from my disastrous Blue Grass performance all the way to Colorado and North Dakota.

I got to work him a bit at Wilson's on my way west and again at Boudreau's when I arrived in South Dakota and I liked him better every time I worked him. By the time I ran him in Colorado we had begun to mesh and by the time I got home he had begun to win dog trials. The rest has been a great deal of fun.

Mirk is a very easy dog to run. He has a great, huge outrun and a nice ability to pull sheep to him. This means on the fetch he can often slow his sheep down. He tends to get a little wide on running sheep, but I'm not perfect either. He has been a great teammate. I always look forward to running him. It's a joy to finish a run with a great penner and shedder. Overall, it is nice to have a dog you know will nail both the outrun and the finish and will listen and always try to do as he is asked.

Beverly Lambert

Can't Keep an Old Dog Down...(or Get Her <u>to</u> Lie Down!) by Debra Mickey

On a fine summer day Sue and I met at the field to work our dogs. Afterwards we left the group of sheep out while we sat along the edge of the field in the shade with all our dogs, both young and old.

Our ten acre field is one big hill, so the sheep can easily stay out of sight (great for blind outruns); the sheep quickly faded from view. As Sue and I sat there shooting the breeze, my two older dogs suddenly took themselves on a walk down to the bottom of the field - kinda strange as our dog usually stay with us even with sheep in sight. As they meandered off I said, "Hum... I wonder if Jill will find the sheep." Not thinking that likely and knowing she couldn't get into trouble, Sue and I continued our talk.

Now, those of you who know Jill will remember that she was never the most eager to work sheep although she did, starting in Novice-Novice and retiring from Open. I really think she worked sheep because her instincts overcame any of her qualms and, the main reason, to please me. She's

been retired going on 3 years and seldom tells me she wants to work but enjoys watching the youngsters while laying in the shade of a nearby tree.

But off the two of them went. Oscar, the other elder and the non sheepdog of the group came back ready for a nap, but Jill was nowhere to be seen. Suddenly something caught Oscar's eye and he raised his head. As I looked to see what it was, there calmly and quietly trotting along on the horizon was the group of sheep we had left out. Where were they going? Then, coming close behind, came Jill. She found them.

Always the observer I let things go to see what would happen. We lost sight of them as the sheep bent around the outside of the round pen to go alongside the barn, a favorite escape. Jill must have flanked around them 'cause a little later back in sight they came calmly trotting down along the fence, pass

ing behind us. Out of sight again, then suddenly they were in front of us and finally Jill stopped. She was done with her gather.

In her prime "lie down" and "that'll do" were terms she seldom obeyed and it's much worse now that she's 12, so calling her off the sheep took some doing. But she called off and came under the trees with us. The sheep just stood there not sure what to do. Finally they drifted off to another hiding spot. With all the dogs accounted for, Sue and I continued our chat.

A little later Jill was missing and then on the horizon came the sheep with Jill behind them. She found them again! This time the sheep were taking her around the field. Always a great line dog with quite a bit of eye, now she wasn't quite covering to turn them. Down around the side of the barn they went, then back across the field, and then back around the side of the barn again. The sheep were taking her to their favorite escape spots but couldn't escape from her. By this time the sheep were a-puff'n and Jill was looking a tad warm. "That'll do" fell on deaf ears, but finally I was able to call her off. This time we headed for the stream for a cool dip as the sheep headed for the shade.

I don't know why on this day Jill felt the call of her instincts but it was quite an entertaining show and once more I was reminded of Jill's big heart. Never a strong sheepdog, she always had heart and gave it all she had. This fine summer day was another humbling example that you can't keep an old sheepdog down -or get her to "lie down"!!



Jill watching the youngsters from the shade of the tree

Vermont Triple Crown Award - Late entry from 2009 submitted by Nancy Philips

Three Vermont trials joined together to offer the Vermont Triple Crown Award - Merck Forest SDT in Rupert (July 10 and 11); Mad River Valley SDT in Waitsfield (July 17 and 18) and Vermont State Championship held in Quechee and Strafford (late August).

The top score from each of the three open trials are added together to determine the most consistent dog and handler. The winner receives a handcrafted trophy in the shape of Vermont with the name of the handler, dog and year engraved on a brass plaque. The trophy is in the possession of the winning handler until the new trial year. In addition, there is a cash prize and jacket awarded the champion. The reserve champion is also recognized.

Peter VandeCar, former Vermont Triple Crown winner and judge for the 2009 Spring Valley Farm Trial in Strafford, Vermont presented the prize to the winner, Fiona Robertson with her dog Tap. (See picture below).

Fiona and Tap also won the award in 2007. Warren Mick is the Reserve Champion. Besides a cash award and clothing, each person received a

hand crafted whistle from Rob Drummond and BorderCollics Anonymous. For further information about the Triple Crown, contact Steve Wetmore at swwet@valley.net or call him on 802-765-4466.



Where To Bury A Dog - submitted by Janet Lindsey

There are various places within which a dog may be buried. We are thinking now of a setter, whose coat was flame in the sunshine, and who, so far as we are aware, never entertained a mean or an unworthy thought. This setter is buried beneath a cherry tree, under four feet of garden loam, and at its proper season the cherry strews petals on the green lawn of his grave. Beneath a cherry tree, or an apple, or any flowering shrub of the garden, is an excellent place to bury a good dog. Beneath such trees, such shrubs, he slept in the drowsy summer, or gnawed at a flavorous bone, or lifted head to challenge some strange intruder. These are good places, in life or in death. Yet it is a small matter, and it touches sentiment more than anything else.

For if the dog be **well** remembered, if sometimes he leaps through your dreams actual as in life, eyes kindling, questing, asking, laughing, begging, it matters not at all where that dog sleeps at long and at last. On a hill where the wind is unrebuked and the trees are roaring, or beside a stream he knew in puppyhood, or somewhere in the flatness of a pasture land, where most exhilarating cattle graze. It is all one to the dog, and all one to you, and nothing is gained, and nothing lost -- if memory lives. But there is one best

place to bury a dog. One place that is best of all.

If you bury him in this spot, the secret of which you must already know, he will come to you when you call -- come to you over the grim, dim frontiers of death, and down the well-remembered path, and to your side again. And though you call a dozen living dogs to heel they should not growl at him, nor resent his coming, for he is yours and he belongs there.

People may scoff at you, who see no lightest blade of grass bent by his footfall, who hear no whimper pitched too fine for mere audition, people who may never really have had a dog. Smile at them then, for you shall know something that is hidden from them, and which is well worth the knowing.

The one best place to bury a good dog is in the heart of his master.

by Ben Hur Lampman

In Memory of Denise Leonard's Kate.....if you had to define "Border Collie" in one word, you could simply say "Kate". She will be missed.

The Nature of Hay by Maria Amodei

Hay is a remarkable substance. Properly harvested it captures much of the nutrients available in the included forage, removing the bulk of the moisture to allow long term storage. It provides nutrients and calories for my flock, keeping them fit and healthy through the winter, providing energy to stay warm and develop the lambs inside them. I love the smell of good hay. It is fresh and sweet and clean and wholesome. I bed my dog houses deeply with hay in the winter so the dogs can make a warm nest. The dogs smell delightful. I love the smell of the loft loaded with hay.

If only I did not actually have to carry the stuff.

Hay has an amazing ability to work its

way into any amount of clothing. Wear a

turtleneck, fleece vest, fleece jacket, winter jacket, long pants, hat, gloves and boots. Take a few bales out to the sheep. Brush the bits of hay off your jacket, noting with satisfaction that they seem to slide easily off the smooth finish of your outerwear. That, my friend, is a lie. The hay that slides easily off your coat is a distraction, covering the progress of the hay that is now working its way through 6 layers of clothing to your skin. As you took each bale and spread the flakes out for the sheep, small bits of hay have been surreptitiously disengaging themselves and beginning their journey. Some simply clung to your clothing as you carried the bale or lifted a flake. Some lifted through the air in the chill winter breeze, or perhaps separated as a flake was tossed to a hungry ewe. Many of these bits fall short of their goal, landing in the snow to be consumed by sheep or decay into the ground. But many successfully make it to the outside of your clothing. Once there they begin a burrowing process

that any subterranean dwelling animal would envy. Hay can work through any fabric with ease. Natural fibers or manmade, knit or woven, if it is not hermetically sealed then hay can get through. If not through the fabric then it slides in the cuffs of your boots, up your sleeves, down the turtlenecks. Let's ignore the fact that you never lifted the hay above your shoulders to avoid the turtleneck entrance, the hay gets in there anyway. Once in, it works its way through the layers like a chigger, aiming for the most sensitive skin. And only when it has positioned itself so as to cause maximum annoyance does that final, almost invisible, pointy piece of hay finally anchor to your undergarments.

You continue your chores, desperately trying to ignore this infernally uncomfortable sensation as the tiny bit of hay scratches at skin not at all accustomed to such abuse. Finally, in disgust, you drop the bucket you were carrying, unzip your coat, pull the hem of your sweater and

underlying vest away from your body, untuck the turtleneck exposing your bare skin to the icy air, and reach up to sweep the offending needle of hay out of your clothing. You do this while leaning forward, pulling your upper layers away from you so the hay will fall freely to the ground. But instead it manages to slide down your body and into your pants. Lord only knows how since the waistband is so damn tight from holiday gluttony. Once there it snags on the top edge of your underwear and immediately works its way down into a position equally miserable as where it started. You sigh, perhaps swear, and finish your chores.

Once in the house you will find a good shake gets most of the hay out of your clothing, but there always seems to be one piece, one microscopic and very sharp piece, that cannot be found to be removed. You take a clean pair of socks from the drawer and slide them on only to realize that the wonderful, nutritious and remarkable hay is still with you.



Steve Wetmore's Pace showing a healthy disrespect to some ornery ewes - by Kate Collins

Announcements

More Novice trials needed.....

The Learning Trial Committee would like to request and encourage Novice trial participants to host an event in their area. There is money

allocated to make this easier. Money may be used for port-a-johns, clinicians' mileage and beverages.

The committee will assist in finding an open handler to instruct. It is the committee's desire to see more events held in a broader area of NEBCA.

Interested parties should contact Bernie Armata for more information.

Trial Announcements

Borders on Paradise will be held in Turbotville PA. The dates are Friday/Saturday, May 7 - 8 for Open, Sunday, May 9 for Nursery, it go to a 2 day trial in 2011. I will Ranch, ProNov, and Nov/Nov in that order.

Contact Dave Fetterman on 570-742-3527. Email is d.fetterman2@verizon.net

CT Sheep & Wool Festival SDT is set for April 24 & 25, 2010 in Vernon, CT. Check NEBCA website.

Contact Ellen Rusconi-Black

dragonflyfarm@att.net

Finality Farm in Dover Plains/ Millbrook, NY (east of Poughkeepsie) is being planned for June 12-13. All classes. New trial, new sheep. Centrally located, beautiful setting.

Mich Ferraro and Joe Evans

The Mad River Valley SDT, Waitsfield, VT, will be back at Kenyon's Field for the 6th time on July 17 -18, 2010.

The trial is part of the Vermont Triple Crown which includes Merck Forest, Vermont State Championship and Spring Valley Open.

We look forward to welcoming you back for a challenge on the field, a swim in the river and dinner on the porch. Nancy Phillips and Stephen Doherty

New trial in Maine for 8/21 at the Topsham Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Maine Highland Games. It will be a points trial held on the infield of their track. We hope to have be the trial manager. Lynn Deshambeault

Bromont SDT, Quebec. (Tentative) plans for August 21-22, 2010 to run all classes as last year - NEBCA / USBCHA sanctioned. Commercial flock of mixed breed wool for Open, small flock mixed breed/ wool / dog broke for NN, PN, Ranch and Nursery.....entries will determine number of runs available.

Judges to be announced. Pot luck dinner Saturday Night. Lots of parking space, potable water, no hook-

Thanks Paul and Claire Garwood

High Point Farm, Knox, NY June 26-27 Open, 2 Nursery June 28-29 Novice, 2 Nursery. Peter VanDeCar

Shuttleworth, VT - After 18 years and 5 or so spinoff trials I am sorry to say that the Sherbrooke trial will not happen. The good newes is that we will run a trial at the Shuttleworth Farm in northern Vermont on the same weekend of July 24th/25th. More info will follow soon. Dave Young

Cheddar ale squash soup recipe - submitted by John & Cynthia Palmer

At the Indian River Trial a few weeks ago we had Cheddar Ale Squash Soup; A few people asked for the recipe. The Garwoods suggested I send the recipe for inclusion in the NEBCA News. So here it is:

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp butter
- 1 cup Spanish onion finely diced
- 3 cups peeled seeded chopped butternut squash
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 4 cups grated aged farmhouse cheddar one bottle Ale

Salt and fresh ground pepper

Cooking Instructions

Heat butter and add onion and cook for 3 minutes until onions are transparent. Add squash and cook for 5 minutes. Add chicken stock and bring to a boil. Let simmer for 20 minutes or until squash is tender.

Puree soup in a blender until smooth. Add cream and return to boil. Reduce heat and while whisking slowly add cheese until melted. Add ale to taste. Stir together and season with salt and pepper to taste.

I usually serve it with a dollop of sour cream.

This recipe was borrowed from the Autumn 2005 issue of LCBO's Food & Drink magazine.

John & Cynthia Palmer

Trial Reports & Results, Long Shot Farm Trials, Church Hill, MD.

Nov 21-22, 2009

Back in the cool days of autumn, Sherry Smith hosted the first of her off-season series of 2 day trials. As Sherry described it the trial "turned out beautiful, the weather cooperated, sheep behaved and people were enjoyable to visit with and we got to watch some great dog runs.

Carol Campion was our judge who did a great job all weekend and Deb Crowder was as usual the best at the top sorting and taking care of my sheep. Sandy Hornung, Suzanne Gansky and Angie Herscher took care of all the paperwork, scores and did a great job keeping them posted quickly. Sharon Nunan, Sherry Sheldon, Pam Gardner helped with the sheep setting and then there were all the other people who always pitch in and help, so thank you!! A trial does not run smoothly without lots of help which I always am lucky to have.

I want you all to know how much I appreciate your help."

Open 1

Rub Drummond/Casey
Doug Brewer/Tess 1
Dave Sharp/Tot
Dave Sharp/Dol
Nancy Obernier/Ben
Polly Matzinher/James
Polly Matzinger/Lily
Nancy Obernier/Nick
Rub Drummond/Cub
Lori Cunningham /William

Ranch 1

Lori Cunningham/Matt
Joe Evans/Peg
Gwen LeFever/Mirk
Doug Brewer/Tess 2
Nancy Starkey/Drift
Joe Evans/Chip

Nancy Starkey/Maid Pam Gardner/Meg Pam Gardner/Rom Nancy Obernier/Jill

Pro Novice 1

Joe Evans/Mist
Angie Herscher/Rhyme
Karen Karkow/Gunner
Jackie Evans/Cricket
Amy Yoho/Scandal
Karen Thompson/Trey

USBCHA Nursery 1

Lori Cunningham/Matt

Open 2

Eileen Stein/Mac
Polly Matzinger/Lily
Nancy Obernier/Ben
Nancy Obernier/Jill
Anne DeVine/Annie
Polly Matzinger/James
Richard Whorton/Nate
Doug Brewer/Tess 1
Pam Gardner/Rusty
Dave Sharp/Kirk

Ranch 2

Anne DeVine/Shep Gwen LeFever/Mirk Carol Lockhart/Edge Pam Gardner/Meg Nancy Starkey/Maid Karen Karkow/Jade Pam Gardner/Rom Nancy Starkey/Drift Walt Zeiser/Trim Joe Evans/Peg

Pro Novice 2

Joe Evans/Mist Walt Zeiser Anne Angie Herscher Rhyme



Long
Way
To
Long
Shot

Karen Karkow Gunner Sharon Nunan Charlie Amy Yoho Burn Jackie Evans Cricket

USBCHA Nursery 2

Pam Gardner Meg

Overall Winners

Open (we had a tie) Nancy Obernier & Ben and Doug Brewer & Tess 1

Ranch Gwen LeFever & Mirk

Pro Novice Joe Evans & Mist

Jan 20, 2010

Report & results submitted by Sherry Smith.

For those who were unable to attend you missed a good trial. The weather was perfect for a trial, sheep behaved themselves, got to visit with lots of friends and dogs were able to work, so everyone was happy (I hope anyway).

I want to say again, without all the people who work throughout the trial with a smile on their faces, the trial would not be what it is, so thank you!! All the people who put on the trials know what I am saying - it does take a lot of people to volunteer their time and dogs to make a trial successful and we who put on the trials greatly appreciate your help.

Open (40 dogs)

Walt Zeiser/Rose	87
Linda Tesdahl/Ryan	86
Lori Cunningham/Riff	86
Carol Campion/Floss	85.5
Sue Asten/Brook	84
Nancy Obernier/Ben	83.5
Carla King/Emma	83
Linda Tesdahl/Suede	81
Polly Matzinger/James	79
Lori Cunningham/Willia	m 78

USBCHA Nursery (5 dogs)

Pam Gardner/Meg

Ranch (17 dogs)

Doug Brewer/Tess 2	76
Pam Gardner/Meg	70
Mark Sheldon/Jaff	65
Judy Gambill/Jen	61
Pam Gardner/Rom	59
Sandy Meilahn/Troy	59
Nancy Starkey/Soot	44
Irene Caroom/Moss	35
Carol Lockhart/Edae	35

Pro Novice (10 dogs)

Linda Tesdahl/Juno	75
Sherry Sheldon/Chick	71
Walt Zeiser/Anne	68
Suzanne Gansky/Lil Cap	57
Pam Helton/Bonnie	48
Fran Sharon/Liz	46

Thanks for Fall Foliage submitted by Barbara Leverett & Chris Bowen

The Trials Committee would like to thank all those who helped make the 2009 Fall Foliage Trials such a success.

The success of this trial really reflects on what a great association NEBCA is. It was amazing to see the team work that occurred while putting on this trial.

Foremost to recognize are our hosts, Todd and Kelli Shuttleworth who opened up their farm to our association; they were very gracious. The local committee was lead by Dave Young. Without their help this trial would have been impossible. Dave worked full tilt, all of 4 days and part of a fifth, smiling all the time. Dave and Mary Ellen Young also went above and beyond by hosting the judge before and duringthe trial, ensuring that she was comfortable and happy.

Dave was assisted by Roger Deschambeault, Steve Wetmore, Jim Perkins, Jim and Sue Allan.

The set out crew, consisting of Rob Drummond, Steve Wetmore, Mary Thompson, Carol Campion, Sue Schoen, Amanda Milliken, Warren Mick all did a great job. They had to be out in some of the worst weather we had all fall.

Mike Nunan took care of the sheep pen work, assisted by Jim Perkins and Rob Drummond.

Martha Walke organized a scribe crew that ran like clock work. The scribes were Susan Allen, Mary Ellen Young, Nancy Phillips, Ellen Rusconi-Black, Val Pietraszewska. Betty Murray calmly and professionally took care of all the score-keeping and tabulations.

Several handlers came early and stayed late - you get a big thanks for doing the unexpected. Jim Murphy, Mary Thompson and Lorna Savage your help was appreciated.

Fran Wheeler and Martha Walke were both very gracious in transporting the judge to and from the airport.

Take-down crew was amazing; I can't even list those who helped because it happened so fast. Thanks for sticking around even though it was a cold and long weekend.

Finally, thank you to anyone who has been forgotten. Your help was appreciated.

Barabara Leverett



Amanda Milliken: "I'll stand here and you just move them in"



"All right then - you lie down and I'll do all the work!"

NEBCA 2010 Annual Meeting - January 16, 2010 - Albany NY

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am by Denise Leonard. Twenty-seven members present; eleven proxies.

Old Business

Last Meeting Minutes —Bernie Armata motioned to approve the minutes from the last two meetings (Cummington and Cooperstown) as printed in the December newsletter. Motion was seconded by Chris Bowen. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report – Maria Mick – As of January 14, 2010, there were 142 single memberships, 40 family/farm memberships, 5 life memberships, and 1 honorary membership for a total of 188. At the Annual meeting 2009, there were 191 memberships, and 153 at the Annual meeting 2008. At the close of 2009, there were 316 memberships.

As of January 14, 2010, there were 124 members that wished to receive a hard copy newsletter and 64 that opted for electronic viewing of the newsletter. At the end of 2009, there were 206 choosing hard copy and 110 choosing to read the newsletter electronically.

Treasurer -Maria Amodei - The balance at the end of 2009 was \$12,154.54. The club ended the year with a lot of inventory due to ordering fund-raising items late in the year and not being able to sell the merchandise by the end of the trial season. The treasury decreased by \$5,000 due to the club's donation to the national finals. Maria suggested that the amount budgeted for the club awards be raised. Maria also stated that the cost for the newsletter has gone down, primarily due to the option to read the newsletter on-line rather than receive a hard copy. The club now has some small Paypal expenses.

Kate Collins motioned to accept the financial report. Motion seconded and passed.

Election Committee - Rose Redick - A total of 86 ballots were received for candidates for the Board of Directors: Mike Nunan - 46 votes, Barb Leverett - 64 votes, Annie Palmer - 32 votes, Jim Perkins - 26 votes, Claire Garwood - 3 votes, and write-in Roger Deschambeault - 1 vote. Barbara and Mike were elected to the Board.

Board of Directors - Warren Mick — One issue this year dealt with a discussion regarding two trial managers wishing to hold their trials on the same weekend and whether the club should decide whether to sanction two trials on the same weekend. The board together with the executive and open trial committees decided that they could not limit sanctioning based on the date. No other issues arose during 2009.

The Board began work on a "how to" manual for putting on a trial.

The Board also plans to write a procedure for nominations and elections. In addition, a formal process is needed for any non-standard funding requests made to the club.

George Northrup motioned to accept the Boards report. Motion seconded and passed.

Learning Trial Committee – Bernie Armata – There were two Learning Trials held in 2009. It was suggested that the committee publish an article in the newsletter to further inform the membership of this program. Tam Mrose motioned to appropriate \$500 for the learning trials program. Motion seconded and passed.

Open Trials Committee – Chris Bowen – The Fall Foliage (FF) was held at Shuttleworth Farm in northern Vermont. This event served as both the Fall Foliage and a USBCHA and NEBCA sanctioned open trial, with only NEBCA eligible dogs allowed to participate in the double lift final round. The trial was well attended

and no entries were turned away. The committee feels that this trial format should be continued in the future. The trial came in under budget.

The top ten High Points winners will receive sweatshirts. These have been ordered but have not yet arrived.

The Fall Foliage in 2010 will be canceled due to the USBCHA Finals, but the High Points program will continue normally. The committee has decided that there will be no grand-fathering of Fall Foliage qualifying status or high points results to count toward future years if a Fall Foliage is not held in a certain year.

Barbara Leverett asked if the money normally budgeted for the Fall Foliage could be added to the budget for the next two years. While there was general support for increasing the Fall Foliage budget, it was not felt that money could be earmarked in this manner.

A recommendation was made that a document describing "What is a trial is all about" be added to the web site. Such a document would target the general public. This could be the same information already found in the NEBCA brochures.

Roger Deschambeault is planning a new trial for May 14-16. Roger and Heather Millen are planning several nursery trials at Fetch Gate Farm.

A motion to accept the committees report passed

Novice Committee – Bernie Armata – Bernie stated that the Novice Trial committee addressed an issue at beginning of year concerning the points assigned to the drive portion of the pro-novice class. In Ontario, the Pro Novice class drive sometimes has a small cross-drive and is worth 30 points whereas NEBCA scoring assumes 20 points assigned to the drive. To deal with this, any Pro Novice results using a 30 point drive will be adjusted by

NEBCA 2010 Annual Meeting - January 16, 2010 - Albany NY (contd.)

taking 2/3rds of the drive points as contributing to NEBCA points.

Two individuals who had purchased an Open dog were given permission to drop the dog back to Pro Novice. They would be permitted to earn up to 20 points in Pro Novice before having to move up to Ranch.

Lorna McMaster won the Alex McKinven award this year. Betty Levin asked if a write-up about Alex and the award could be added to the website. Barb Armata & Barb Leverett both agreed that any award on the website should be accompanied with the history of the award.

A motion was made to extend the waiver of the rule requiring sanctioned novice trials offer all three novice classes for another year. Motion passed.

Bernie said the 2009 Novice Finals came in under budget and that the 2010 novice finals will likely be held on Columbus Day weekend. The novice committee suggested increasing the budget for the Novice Finals to \$1,600. So motioned by Joanne Krause and passed.

Motion to accept the Novice Committee report passed.

Fund Raising Committee - Maria Amodei – Sales were good during 2009 but a fair amount of inventory remains. The long sleeve shirts purchased late last year did not arrive in time to sell at trials. With the existing inventory not many additional items should be needed in 2010. Report accepted.

Calendar Committee – George
Northrup – The 2010 calendar made a small profit - 434 calendars were printed at a cost of \$2600 and so far 330 have been sold at \$10 each.

Most were sold at trials, 25 were sold via the website and 34 with membership renewals. Unfortunately, no calendars were available at Blue Hill

where many are usually sold. The 2010 committee will consist of George Northrup, Kate Collins, Ellen Rusconi-Black, and Carol Campion. A motion to budget \$3,000 for the 2011 calendar was approved.

Newsletter – Joe Evans – Joe stated the 2009 newsletters cost an average of about \$600 per issue to produce and proposed a budget of \$3,000 for 2010. Joe suggested that classified advertising rates be increased and reflect the size of the ad. The new rates will be \$5 plus \$1/line over 10 lines for one issue and \$15 plus \$3/line over 10 lines for a yearly ad. New rates will begin with the summer issue.

He commented that Breeders' Directory rates in the newsletter and the website were remarkably low given their extraordinary value – the website in particular. He pointed out that the website is getting 47,000 to 131,000 hits per month – a much larger audience and better value for the website than originally envisioned.

It was agreed that the aforementioned increases to the newsletter classified ad rates should be implemented for the June to December 2010 issues and that he would present a paper at the next meeting for 2011 advertising rates (classified and Breeders' directory) in both the newsletter and the website. He agreed to consult with Joanna Murphy and Maria Amodei first.

Joe said getting trial managers to send in results is a constant problem and suggested that Heather Millen could send Joanne Murphy all the results for posting in a new section on the web site devoted to all NEBCA trial results to be kept for posterity. Joanne has agreed to post these results. Joe could then cut and paste them into the newsletter without having to bother the trial managers.

A motion to approve the newsletter report passed.

Library – Maria Amodei – The library had \$217 in income and \$183 in expenses. Suggestions for new library items should be sent to Martha Walke.

New Business

Brochures – Kate offered to get more NEBCA brochures printed. A motion for up to \$500 to print new brochures was passed.

Joe Evans – Suggested the club try to increase the membership. Several ideas were put forth: Give existing members a discount on their membership fee if they bring in a new member; add a list of member benefits to the web site; send brochures to breeders to give to puppy buyers. Joe proposed that each NEBCA member should do their best to recruit one new member each with particular emphasis on breeders and trainers who have access to those who would benefit the most from becoming members.

Life memberships —Maria Amodei suggested offering a life membership with an electronic newsletter. The Board will evaluate and report at the next meeting.

The executive committee's term is expiring at the end of this year. The nominating committee for 2010 will be Chris Bowen, George Northrup and one other (if needed).

Announcements

Meeting dates for 2010 – MA Sheep and Wool Festival Trial in Cummington, MA (Saturday, May 29), and Leatherstocking Trial in Cooperstown, NY (Saturday).

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned 2:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Mick, Secretary

NEBCA Trial schedule: March - July, 2010

March 26-28

Long Shot Farm Trial

Church Hill, MD Novice, Open, & USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Sherry Smith

410-758-3363

Apr 24-25

CT Sheep & Wool Festival SDT

Vernon, CT 2 Novice, Open, & USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Carolyn West 860-729-0550 and/or

Ellen Rusconi-Black

dragonflyfarm@att.net

May 1-2

Sand Creek Farm SDT

Mendon, NY 2 Novice & Open Trials USBCHA/NEBCA Joyce Geier 585-624-8220

May 7-9

Borders on Paradise SDT

Turbotville,PA
2 Open & 1 Novice Trials
USBCHA/NEBCA

<u>Dave Fetterman</u> 570-742-3527 May 8-9

NH Sheep & Wool Festival SDT

Hopkinton Fairgrounds, Contoocook, NH 2 Novice, Open & USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA

<u>Chris Bowen</u> 603-358-0147

May 14-16

Nearfield Farm SDT

Center Conway, NH 3 Open Trials & USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA Roger Deschambeault

603-939-2255

June 11 - 13 (TBC)

Finality Farm SDT, Dover Plains, NY

2 Open, 2 Novice, 2 Nursery Mich Ferraro. 845-373-8714

Joe Evans. jevans@geeseoff.com



Finality Ferraro pointing to her new trial

May 22-23

Fetch Gate Farm Spring Nursery Trials

Cortland, NY

3 USBCHA Nursery Trials USBCHA

Roger & Heather Millen 607-835-6584

June 19-22

PA State Championship SDT

Sheepy Hollow Farm, Hop Bottom, PA 2 Novice, Open & USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA

<u>Cheryl Jagger-Williams</u> 570-289-4733

May 29-30

MA Sheep & Woolcraft Fair SDT

Fairgrounds, Cummington, MA 2 Novice & Open 1 USBCHA Nursery Trials USBCHA/NEBCA

<u>Kate Collins, George Northrop</u> 978-249-4407 June 26-29

High Point Farm SDT

High Point Farm, Knox, NY

June 26-27 2 Open, 2 USBCHA Nursery June 28-29 2 Nov, 2 USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA

Peter VanDerCar 518-482-2625/518-895-2585

June 4-6

Nearfield Farm SDT, Center Conway, NH

1 Novice & 2 Open Trials & USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA.

Roger Deschambeault 603-939-2255 July 3-6

Fetch Gate Farm SDT

Cortland, NY 2 Novice & Open Trials USBCHA/NEBCA

Roger & Heather Millen 607-835-6584

NEBCA Trial schedule: July (contd.) - September, 2010

July 3-5

Cascade Farm SDT

370 Pettyboro Road, Bath, NH 3 Novice & Open Trials USBCHA/NEBCA

Mary Ames 603-838-6341

July 8

Ossipee Valley Fair SDT, Hiram,ME 1 Open Points and 1 Nursery Trial USBCHA/NEBCA

<u>Lynn Deschambeault</u> 207-452-2898

July 10-11

Merck Forest Open SDT

Rupert,VT 2 Open Trials USBCHA/NEBCA

July 16-18

Despairdale SDT

Blackstock, ON 2 Open & Novice Trials (all classes) 3 USBCHA Nursery USBCHA/NEBCA

<u>Andrea de Kenedy</u> 416 481-3786

July 17-18

Mad River Valley SDT

Waitsfield, VT (near Montpelier) 2 Novice & Open Trials USBCHA/NEBCA

Nancy Phillips 802 496-7625 July 24-25

Shuttleworth Farm SDT, VT

Details to follow

dyoung@ubishops.ca

August 13-15

Leatherstocking Sheepdog Trial,

Cooperstown, NY
1 day novice, 2 days Open
USBCHA/NEBCA

Barbara Armata 518-875-6471

August 21

Maine Highland Games SDT

Topsham Fairgrounds, Maine 1 Open & USBCHA Nursery Points Trial USBCHA/NEBCA

Lynn Deschambeault 207-452-2898

August 21-22

Fetch Gate Farm Benefit Trial

Cortland, NY
2 Novice Trials
USBCHA/NEBCA

Roger & Heather Millen 607-835-6584

August 21-22

Bromont SDT

599 Chemin Racine (Racine Road), Bromont, Quebec Canada 2 Novice & Open Trials

USBCHA/NEBCA

Paul & Claire Garwood 450-539-5090 August 28

Vermont State Championship SDT Scottish Festival, Queechee, VT

One Open Trial USBCHA/NEBCA

Steve Wetmore 802-765-4466

August 29

Spring Valley Open SDT

Strafford, VT One Open Trial USBCHA/NEBCA Steve Wetmore

802-765-4466

September 11-13 (TBC).

NJ State Championship SDT

9/11- 9/12: Open and Ranch 9/13 2 N/N & P/N 2 runs each

Gene Sheninger

esheninger@optonline.net

September 11-13 (TBC)

(Trial to be confirmed)

Green Lane, Pennsylvania

Maggie Chambers

September 18-26

USBCHA National Finals SDT

Middletown, VA

October 9-11

NEBCA Novice Finals

Details to follow.

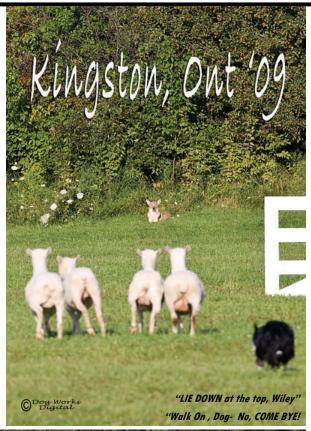
Location to be confirmed

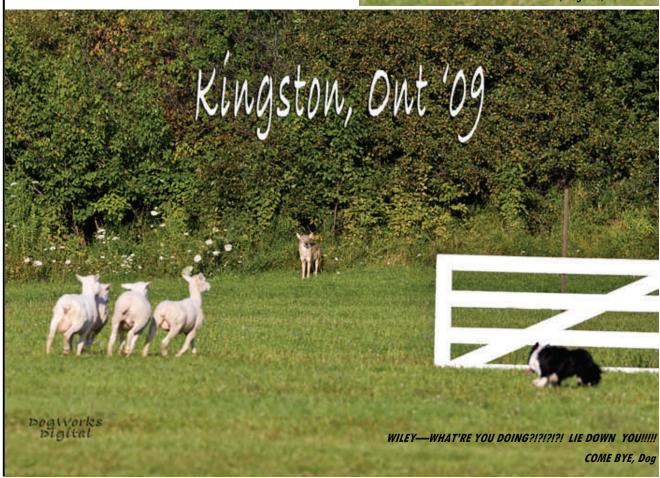
Unconventional Brace - Kingston, ONT

Every picture tells a story, but few truer than this marvelous sequence of a brush wolf working brace for an hour. The shots were taken by *Maureen Robinson of Dog Works Digital* at the Kingston, Ontario Sheepdog trial last summer.

Next time you hear somebody complain about the luck of the draw with their bad packet of sheep, think what it must have been like to handle this situation.

Kudos to the dogs and handlers for keeping their heads and carrying on as if nothing had happened. It adds a whole new meaning to the alarm we usually hear of "DOG ON THE FIELD!"









A Herd's Eye View of the Documentary Film - "SWEETGRASS" by Joe Evans

"a one-of-a-kind experience,"

"a really intimate, beautifully shot examination of the connection between man and beast..."

MANCHEA DAPESEE THE NEW YORK TWEE



"SWEETGRASS" (contd.) by Joe Evans

"An unsentimental elegy to the American West, Sweetgrass follows the last sheepherders to trail their flocks up into Montana's Beartooth mountains for summer pasture." Thus spoke the publicists.

Shepherds, cowboys, dog handlers, wranglers, sheepdog trialists, even members of the general public should all get a taste of something exotic, wild and challenging from this documentary film. It provides a tantalizing glimpse of a disappearing life. A fly-on-the-landscape film has rarely shouted this loudly in speaking so silently about the disappearing world of extreme shepherding.

Yes, you will soon forget that little piece of tricked-up viral marketing produced by Samsung - you remember the one of Welsh hill-farmers playing ping-pong at night with LED jackets on their sheep? They may have hijacked the words "extreme shepherding", but their form of shepherding was about as extreme as a crocheting lesson in comparison with the task facing the cast of shepherds, sheep, horses and dogs in "Sweetgrass."

However, many NEBCA members would have some serious questions to ask the owners and workers of this gargantuan flock. You may well be aghast at the sight and sound of shepherds, horses and dogs trying to herd a couple of thousand sheep through impenetrable forest, sun-dappled glades, swift-flowing streams and loose-rocked scree.

But, you will be as puzzled as porridge at the notion of trying to move that mass of beast with dogs that would struggle in Novice/Novice. I came away with an overwhelming sadness to see shepherds so ill-equipped for the hazards of the task at hand. To put it

bluntly, the dogs were "worked" by shepherds on horse-back through a judicious use of pointing, yipping and encouraging whistles. It shows how incredibly intelligent these dogs are that they sort of understood what was being asked of them. Sort of. The concept of flanking the dogs round the sheep to keep them tucked in and directed was clearly beyond this particular group of shepherds. Invariably the flock ended up where it shouldn't have been.

Nonetheless, the sheep, the wranglers, the horses and a slackjawed pack of livestock guardian dogs all made it to the summer pasture high in the Rockies. And that's where the fun begins. The film-makers focused their sharpeyed lens and microphone on the symbiotic relationship between the flock and the two shepherds with back-up roles for their two sheepdogs. Two sheepdogs? Yes - two sheepdogs. For two or three thousand sheep! One of the dogs runs its feet and its inappropriatelyemployed handler ragged. The other shepherd, an old pro just smokes his roll-your-own, coughs and sings in a tuneless baritone. On his watch, the dog, the horse and the sheep tend to behave.

One of the few observations this man of many silences made was: "How's a dog supposed to like me if no people even like me." But like him you do.

In the meantime, the LGDs fall asleep at the wheel when bear come in for the kill. The old smoking shepherd casts off the image of a 19th century sheep-poke by pulling out a fancy SLR camera to take photographs of the sheep killed by the bears. "Evidence" he says.

The power of this film lies in the lack of preaching voice-over,

the still of the landscape, the silence of the old smoky shepherd and the timelessness of the scenery. This is cleverly offset by the constant chatter of the younger man, the shifting sounds of the wind and the ever-present background clamor of the massive flock.

As timeless as it was, the journey has sadly reached its end for this particular farm and flock - an epic slice of American history that is moving, compelling and now gone.

As we move our three or four sheep around the training pen or over the sweeping terrain of a 300 yard outrun, spare a thought and say a prayer for the players on the mountain in "Sweetgrass."

They might be gone, but, as a result of this film, they will not be forgotten.

Sweetgrass is on very limited release. Check website for details, or wait for the video release:

http://sweetgrassthemovie.com/



2010 BREEDERS' DIRECTORY

Maria Amodei

North Face Farm

PO Box 43 Dunstable, MA 01827 978-649-6736

maria@northfacefarm.com www.northfacefarm.com

Barbara & Bernie Armata

Taravale Farm & Kennel 1165 Esperance Rd., Esperance, NY 12066 518-875-6471 taffaway@aol.com

Carol Campion

Bittersweet Farm, 109 Hammond Hill Hampton, CT 06247 (860) 455-9416

www.bittersweetbordercollies.com

carcampion@yahoo.com

Gwen Cassel / Roy Baker

514 Partridge Hill Road Barneveld, NY 13304 (315) 534-1880 gmcassel@obrae.net

Kate Collins & George Northrup

Aurora Ranch
PO Box 119, Taft Hill Road
Royalston, MA 01368
(978) 249-4407
george01368@yahoo.com

Lynn Deschambeault

Merlynn Kennels
342 Hio Ridge Road
Denmark, ME 04022
(207) 452-2898
merlynn@fairpoint.net

Roger Deschambeault

2275 E. Conway Road Conway, NH 03813 603-939-2255

nearfieldfarm@localnet.com

Anne Devine

EyeSpy Border Collies 205 Flanders Rd. Niantic, CT 06357 860-608-4447

eyespybordercollies@gmail.com
www.eyespybordercollies.com

Beverly Lambert & Doug McDonough

Sheepswood Farm 280 Hebron Road Andover, CT 06232 860-742-5300

www.beverlylambert.com

Gabrielle Merrill

Misty Lane Border Collies 68 Misty Lane, Brownfield, ME 04010 (207) 935-2520 gabe@pivot.net

Warren & Maria Mick

750 Meadowdale Road Altamount, NY 12009 (518) 861-5854 mickwa@capital.net

Fiona Robertson

Creekside Border Collies 4565 Rte 108 North Hatley, QC J0B 2C0 (819) 842-4227

<u>creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca</u>
www.creeksidebordercollies.com

Gene & Lynne Sheninger

Wayside Farm
332 Split Rock Road
Boonton, NJ 07005
esheninger@optonline.net
www.wayside-farm.com

Steve Wetmore

Spring Valley Farm, Box 54 Strafford, VT 05072 (802) 765-4466 swwet@valley.net

Richard & Cheryl Williams

Culleymont Farm
RR 1, Box 1374
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
(570) 289-4733
culleymont@epix.net

Ivan Weir

176 Lyndhurst Road, RR #1 Seeley's Bay, ON K0H 2N0 (613) 387-2696

This listing of breeders of Border Collies is for informational purposes only and in no way represents an endorsement of these breeders by the Northeast Border Collie Association. When making enquiries for purchasing a pup, NEBCA strongly recommends selecting from sound, proven, working stock. We suggest you see both parents work. If you are not able to see the parents working at the farm, do attend the trials and see them working there. Watch for trial results and seek the advice of experienced handlers.

*Not all breeders listed here are necessarily handlers.

NEBCA Classified Advertising - \$5 per issue for up to 10 lines. \$1 per line for extra space over 10 lines

Bittersweet Farm "Home of Whiterose Kep"; Training services for dogs & handlers: Expand your dog's experience with a variety of fields, sheep and situations. Quality pups, started & trained dogs sometimes available. Dogs taken in on a limited basis. Contact Carol Campion at carcampion@yahoo.com 860-455-9416

Merlynn Kennels Border Collies and Katahdin Hair Sheep. Merle and black & white puppies, occasionally started dogs. All breeding stock OFA certified/eye checked. Proven producers of trial and obedience winners. Katahdin Sheep (originated in Maine), excellent for working dogs, no shearing/tail-docking necessary. Lynn Deschambeault, Merlynn Kennels, 342 Hio Ridge Rd., Denmark, ME 04009. 207-452-2898. merlynn@fairpoint.net

Border Collie Training Services: In-house training specializing in giving young dogs a great start. Handling Border Collies for over 20 years. References available. Lessons also. Barbara Leverett, St. Johnsville, NY. 518-568-2833. rleverett@frontier.net

Border Collie Stud Services:

Doc: (ABCA 214103, CBCA 3846) - 2005 Canadian National Nursery Champion, son of Ian Zoerb's 2008 USBCHA National Champion Peg, descendant of Julie Simpson's ##Moss and #Glen and Stuart Davidson's #Whiterose Kep. A good gathering dog and serious minded worker with a terrific temperament. OFA good and eyes clear.

Dale: (ABCA 227438, CBCA 4515) - 2006 NEBCA Ranch Reserve Champion and Long Road Winner, out of Wetmore's "Gyp" by Mick's "Glen" from Berhow's "Nick" line. A dog that is focused and quick. OFA Excellent, eyes CEA/CH, genetic test "Normal".

Both dogs are standing at Mick's Border Collies: Warren & Maria Mick, Altamont, NY. 518-861-5854 or mickwa@logical.net