

A LOOK BACK AT 2021 (aka Life in the Times of Covid)

While the last three quarters of 2020 proved challenging due to the pandemic, 2021 continued to necessitate that we all find new ways of getting things accomplished. Thankfully the efficient vaccines and mask wearing combined to help us move along --- and then there's ZOOM!

JANUARY – our Annual Meeting was held on January 20 at 5PM. It was, for the first time ever, on ZOOM! There were 26 attendees. Our officers for 2021 were elected and outgoing President Terri Pecora recounted some of our activities that were accomplished in 2020 despite Covid. Those included a successful Health Clinic and Water Play Days in Monroe, Union and Washington CT. As well, Terri previewed some of the activities to come in 2021 that will be covered as they occurred in the coming months.

FEBRUARY – Our Board Meetings have gone to Zoom! The Westminster Dog Show and Agility Trials that are normally held in NYC were moved to June this year – Covid again.

MARCH – Scent Workshops were held at Tails-U-Win in Manchester on Saturday and Sunday March 27 and 28. Organizer Stephanie Staszak did a great job and instructor Jennifer Anderson was thorough and informative. There were hides down low and hides up high – and smart doggie noses sniffing them all out. Also, plenty of discussion on theory and how dogs sniff! All workshops were full and all participants were happy!

APRIL – Whoopee, whee! Time for the annual Nutmeg Calendar Photo Contest! Thankfully Covid has not slowed down the contributions of marvelous dog pictures from around the world. Proceeds from the sale of our annual calendar have, in the last 9 years, resulted in donations of over \$43,000 to the Portuguese Water Dog Foundation for support of canine cancer research. This year's donation will be earmarked for research into Addison's disease.

MAY – Nutmeg's Scent Trial was held at Camp Chinqueka in Bantam, CT on May 8th & 9th. Both days enjoyed full attendance and great reviews from participants. Several club members volunteered to help with needed tasks (as well as some local 4H club members). Mary Anne Carpenter was called out as the "Energizer Bunny" volunteer at the trial!

Two weeks after the Scent Trial, on May 22nd and 23rd, a successful and busy Health Clinic was held at Deep River Animal Hospital in Deep River, CT. Four veterinary specialists participated; there were 41 different breeds and 159 dogs with 259 tests performed. Once again, only the vets, techs and our volunteers were allowed inside the Clinic due to Covid precautions. Many, many thanks to our valuable volunteers Ann Camp, Libby and Annie Ibey, Cheryl Rutz, Tim Gardner, Ginny Cuneo and Mary Ann Carpenter to name a few. Apologies if you aren't listed though you volunteered – you are totally appreciated as well!

JUNE – Water play commenced at Fawn Hollow Lake in Monroe. Due to neighborhood parking issues the size of groups is more limited than in the past, however our dogs were playing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Our Nutmeg Specialty was held at the Taconic KC show on Friday, June 11 (the day before the rescheduled Westminster show in Westchester). The site was the Yorktown Grange Fair Grounds in Yorktown Heights, NY. Nutmeg's classy Woodbury Pewter Trophies (nice!) were much appreciated.

JULY – Water play continued in Monroe. As well, all members and guests that attended the Water Fun Day at Camp Pomperaug in Union, CT on July 31 enjoyed the different location and had a good time!

AUGUST – Continuing with our water play in Monroe and more fun! An additional Water Play Day was held at Eagle Rock Day Camp in Washington, CT on August 14.

SEPTEMBER – Judge Karen Pratt from Texas officiated at Nutmeg's Water Trial at Eagle Rock Day Camp on the 11th and 12th. Competitors came from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to vie for Junior, Apprentice, Working, Courier and Master titles. Results and awards are posted on our website, www.nutmegpwd.org, on the "News and Reports" tab.

OCTOBER – As many of our members arrived home tired (but with lots of ribbons!) from the PWDCA National Specialty at the end of September we looked forward to fall and winter with a repeat of the

terrific Grooming Seminar on October 30. Presenting how-to's and tips on retriever cut and lion cut on both curly and wavy dogs is Alex Vinopal. Alex, headquartered in Higganum, CT, is a professional groomer, handler and breeder – and a Nutmeg member, as well as the mother of the cutest little boy in the universe!

NOVEMBER and DECEMBER – While closing out the year we are busily and hopefully planning and looking forward to 2022 where there will be lots more opportunities to work and play with our dogs! Look on our FB page and on our website, www.nutmegpwd.org, for future announcements of meetings, seminars, play days, training opportunities and trials.

So, as we end this challenging but fulfilling year, we renew our commitment to support charities for our dogs and others as well as the humans that need and love them. Since 2001 the Nutmeg Portuguese Water Dog Club has donated over \$103,000 to worthwhile organizations including but not limited to:

- Portuguese Water Dog Foundation, Inc., dedicated to fund canine medical research focused on issues that affect the health and well being of Portuguese Water Dogs. This year's contributions will be earmarked for Addison's research.
- Canine Companions for Independence provides assistance dogs free of charge to adults, children and veterans with disabilities
- Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, Inc., committed to partnering men and women who are blind with their elite breed of German Shepherd Dogs.
- The Connecticut Humane Society, the leading resource in the state for companion animal welfare. Our donations are earmarked for the Fox Free Clinic that provides health care for dogs whose owners cannot afford veterinary care.

Happy Holidays and Happy and Healthy New Year to all! WOOF!