



# The Golden Gait

Vol. 45, No.7

July 2019



**Board Meeting**

**July 18 – 7:00 pm (phone)**  
**(board members - note date change)**

**Agility Trial**

**July 19 - 21**

**Fall Hunt Test**

**September 14 - 15**



## What's **INSIDE** this **ISSUE**

- President's Message
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- GRCA "Field" issue





I would like to **Thank** everyone that worked at the Specialty this year. We enjoyed all 6 shows without rain. It did rain at night but the days were great. We did make a profit this year on the shows. We are working now to have a few changes for next year. We need your help for suggestions on judges. Good judge's draw majors and we had them for all 6 shows this year. Let's keep up the tradition. Send your choices of judges to me.

Thanks also go out to Lisa Sulouff on the Raffle. We made a big profit on the lovely baskets she made along with Bonnie and Chuck Loya's baskets they donated to the Club. Thank you for all your hard work.

Roseanna did a really good job with the Obedience and Rally. We had a new building this year and everyone seemed to enjoy it. We opened it up to All-Breeds this year and had several entries from them.

The Agility Trial is July 19th-20th at Countryside Agility Training Center in Erie. Good luck to everyone showing there.

September 14th-15th is the Hunt Test at Hambden Ohio. We still need workers for the two days. Any time would be much appreciated. Remember, this is your Club and in order to make it work you have to give some of your time. Workers get a free lunch plus they learn what Golden's were bred to do. It's fun to watch their natural talents come out and retrieve the birds and swim out in the ponds to retrieve the ducks. You can contact me to volunteer your services for the day. Thank you in advance.

Stay cool during these hot days and hug those Golden's.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Depp  
GPGRC President

# *In Loving Memory*

BRENDAN MCGOWAN

JULY 12, 2000 - JUNE 13, 2019



The Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club extends it's deepest sympathy to the McGowan Family on the tragic loss of Brendan on Thursday. Brendan was the 18 year old that was struck by lightening at Mammoth Park in Westmoreland Park. He is the son of club member, Darlene McGowan and nephew of Kathy Fertal.

Our club will be accepting donations from members as a small way of showing support and reaching out to the family during this time of great loss. Anyone wishing to make a financial donation can send a check payable to GPGRC through July 15th to:

Roseanna Frankowski  
55 Marlin Dr West  
Pittsburgh PA 15216



## Helpful Hint

The AKC Reunite program has a pet poison hotline available anytime 24/7 for the life of your pet (just \$15). They are a division of Safety Call, an organization whose expertise has been recognized and sought by certified groups such as the FDA, EPA and CPSC for issues related to product safety. Experts on potentially dangerous contents, Pet Poison Helpline provides the on-label warnings for household items, and are the go-to resource to assist if your pet accidentally gets into something.

Once you add this service, a call to AKC Reunite at 800-252-7894 with your pet's identification number will gain you and your vet access to the best toxicology resources.

<https://www.akcreunite.org/pph>

## Rachel “Pagey” Elliott: Master of Many Trades by Laura Foley



Pagey Elliott and friends. (Courtesy photo)

Near the entrance to Rachel “Pagey” Elliott’s home on River Road stands a tall pole crowded with narrow, wooden signs shaped like arrows, pointing in all directions. Painted brown with white lettering, the arrows are reminiscent of the type of signs found along hiking trails, showing the name of and distance to various destinations. The arrows point to locations at the Elliott farm and beyond, including:



The “wheresit” at River Road Farm. (Photo by Laura Foley)

Barn, Agility, River, Back Porch, Kennels Horses, Pagemark Puzzles, Pond.

In a place of honor at the very top of the pole, an arrow points straight up to the sky, painted simply with the word, “Grampa,” referring to Dr. Mark Elliott, Pagey’s late husband and partner in several of her life-long endeavors. Other family members are also noted, along with the number of miles they will travel to return home to Carlisle.

Dubbed a “wheresit” by its creator, the Elliott’s granddaughter, Sarah Holmes Tucker, this structure seems to stand as a three-dimensional reflection of Pagey’s rich and varied life. The many-faceted sign provides images of the important places and passions of a woman who, at 93 years old, has barely begun to slow down.

What amazes some people about Pagey is that she does so many things so very well. Her interests and talents have taken her around the globe. In the world of dogs alone she has been a breeder, trainer, researcher, author, illustrator, lecturer, video producer and photographer. She is not “jack” but, in fact, master of many trades, including several outside of the animal world such as jigsaw puzzle making, handwriting analysis and drawing.

Animals have been a tremendous part of Pagey Elliott’s life. She grew up with dogs and horses in Lexington, where she was born, in 1913. She graduated from Radcliffe College in 1935 and later bred Golden Retrievers and Connemara ponies, in Carlisle. In 1946, she and Dr. Elliott bought what they called the River Road Farm, a farmhouse and 64-acre parcel purchased from the estate of Mason Garfield, the grandson of President James A. Garfield. The house, dating back to 1701, was originally part of the Blood Farms, established by the Blood family who were Carlisle’s original settlers. The property borders River and Skelton Roads, and extends to the Concord River in the back.

Pagey Elliott shares a quiet moment with her pony. (Photo by Mollie McPhee Ho).



During the time they bred ponies and dogs, the couple raised their three children and Dr. Elliott maintained his orthodontic practice in Concord, where he had the distinction of being the first orthodontist in town. While their children attended the Carlisle schools, Pagey served as president and longtime member of the Carlisle PTA. She received the Old Home Day Honored Citizen Award in 1998 for her extensive work as “an active member of the community, helping form the structure, the activities and the character of the town.”

### **The world of Golden Retrievers**

In 1940, Dr. Elliott, an avid duck hunter, gave Pagey a Golden Retriever puppy they named Toby. “Goldens were a new breed to the country,” she pointed out, “although dog owners in the mid-west had begun to use them in duck hunting and the conservation of wounded game.” Toby astounded his owners as well as Dr. Elliott’s hunting friends with an uncanny ability to track and retrieve just about every bird that was shot, whether killed or crippled, in the water or in the brush.



Pagey and her Golden Retriever, Tammy, both get a good workout during agility training. (Courtesy photo)

Because hunters can take only a limited number of birds, Pagey explained, having a dog retrieve most of those shot has the effect of conserving game. For example, if a hunter is limited to shooting four birds during a particular season and if one of those birds is lost and cannot be retrieved, that hunter might be tempted to shoot one more bird to reach his “limit.” Thousands of game were wounded each year and never recovered, Pagey noted, and the usefulness of the Golden Retriever became more and more apparent to hunters and conservationists.

The Elliotts soon began breeding Golden Retrievers, first while they were living in Minnesota and later at the farm on River Road. They registered their Featherquest Kennel with the American Kennel Club (AKC) in 1945, having come up with the name because duck hunters are “in quest of feathered game.” They raised about 50 litters of Goldens over the years, and they became known as a knowledgeable, experienced breeders of sound dogs, both physically and mentally.

Pagey praises the breed’s many qualities. “Goldens are wonderful obedience dogs, very easy to train, mannerly in the house, a good all-around dog that fits well into families,” she said. “These dogs become such companions. And, of course, they are so useful,” she adds, referring to the breed’s ability to be trained in obedience, agility, tracking, retrieving and serving the blind and disabled. Goldens are also used in police and rescue work, drug detection and as therapy dogs.

Pagey’s love of Goldens developed into an interest in dog structure and movement, which eventually led to a career as a lecturer, video producer and book author. She served on the board and held almost every office in Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA), where she promoted the awareness of hip dysplasia and other genetic problems. She also served on the board of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals for 17 years. However, it was undoubtedly her puppy customers who finally propelled Pagey into a 29-year international lecture career.

## **Lecturing around the world**

“When I bred dogs, people would ask ‘how do I know I’m getting a good puppy?’ she said. “So I started filming dogs to try to show the rights and wrongs of gait and structure.”

Interest in her work grew and before long she was in great demand as an expert lecturer on canine movement and structure. She spoke and showed her films to audiences throughout the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii) and in countries on three continents, including England, Sweden, Holland, Amsterdam, Scotland, Norway, Australia and Canada.

In response to requests from audience members for take-home materials, Pagey wrote and illustrated *Dogsteps*, a book on “how dogs move and how their conformation affects movement.” While the book is written in layperson’s terms, it is chock-full of technical information for dog breeders and owners alike. First published in 1973, *Dogsteps* was hailed as the “Best Dog Book of the Year” by the Dog Writers Association of America and is still known today as the definitive book on dog structure and gait.

The third edition of her book, *Dogsteps, A New Look*, was published in 2001, with the benefit of new research in cineradiography (moving X-rays) that Pagey conducted with Dr. Farish Jenkins at Harvard University’s Museum of Comparative Zoology. “This was a tremendous opportunity,” Pagey said. “It really was a breakthrough in understanding dog structure.” Using the museum’s specialized equipment to X-ray dogs walking on treadmills, she was able to further her research in canine locomotion by studying bone and joint motion in these moving X-rays.

“That’s when my lecture career really took off,” she said. Soon she was filming again, this time as producer and editor of videos for several breed clubs (Cairn Terrier, Collie and Golden Retriever) and co-producer of the AKC film, *Observing Dogs in Motion*. She made a *Dogsteps* video, which featured over 70 different breeds, and a DVD called *Canine Cineradiography*. No wonder she was referred to as “Mother of Movement” in an article in the January 2006 issue of *DogWorld*.

## **The puzzle-making world**

Pagey says that eventually her husband grew tired of picking her up at the airport from her travels around the world, and she agreed to stop lecturing so she could spend more time with him at home. Not one to remain idle, however, she soon



began her career in cutting jigsaw puzzles. She still produces under the name, Pagemark, with a Golden Retriever as her trademark.

A visit to her puzzle room makes it easy to imagine that Pagey has made about 1,500 wooden puzzles over the years — intricate, colorful, precisely-cut puzzles that she still makes on order. She keeps her materials in numerous sets of drawers, some overflowing, which line the walls of the room. Large sheets of plywood are ready to be cut into various sized rectangles. Pagey will choose a piece of artwork from the drawers full of organized sheets and attach it to a piece of wood with spray adhesive (yes, she uses a mask). Then she places the intact plywood picture in front of the vibrating blade on her puzzle-cutting machine (the blade is like a jigsaw, and can be as narrow as a piece of thread). She moves the wood slowly, making wiggles, curves and notches, looking somewhat like a seamstress guiding fabric through a sewing machine. She carves wonderful, even whimsical, little shapes within the rectangle. Her hands are constantly moving the puzzle, although she is calm and purposeful in her work.

Not surprisingly, her puzzles have also brought her fame. Last year, Pagey established a new Guinness World Record for the world's most expensive jigsaw puzzle. The \$27,000 puzzle sold at a charitable art auction to benefit the Golden Retriever Foundation.

Jean Eiland of Marlborough takes her Black Labrador, Pagey, through the agility course at the home of the dog's namesake, Pagey Elliott. (Photo by Mollie McPhee Ho)



**Agility training**

Late every Wednesday afternoon, from April to November, you can see dogs of all sizes and colors running with their owners through what looks like a kind of obstacle course set up in a large field at the side of Pagey's house. The dogs run as fast as they can through tunnels and over jumps while the handlers run as fast as they can alongside their dogs, shouting commands, giving hand signals and trying to hold their dogs' attention as they guide them through the course.

This is the sport of agility training, which took the dog world by storm in the mid- '90s and only grows in popularity with each successive year. The fact that a local agility club trains in one of Pagey's fields is a testament to her continued commitment to remain on the cutting edge of canine trends and developments.





Carolyn Ing of Carlisle guides her Sheltie, Nickel, over a jump on the agility course. (Photo by Mollie McPhee Ho)

She decided to try agility training with her Golden Retriever, Tammy, in 1996 but was disappointed to learn that the closest class in the area was in Wayland in the evening with the ARFF (Agility is Really Fun for Fido) Agility Club. No longer a fan of night driving, Pagey asked the ARFF club president, “Can you use that field?” Since the club’s training site at that time was an asphalt driveway, the president was only too eager to take her up on her generous offer. Since then, ARRF members and their dogs have been training in Pagey’s field in Carlisle and, while the club keeps the field mowed and members do a clean-up in the fall, she will not accept rent or any other fees.

“Pagey is a wonderful person — so generous, so curious, so interested in everything,” says ARFF member Carolyn Ing of Carlisle. Ing notes that she and other club members appreciate her knowledge of dog structure, gait and physiology and her willingness to evaluate their dogs’ fitness for agility. Hearing Pagey speak at a seminar early in Ing’s career “was the best possible introduction I could get in showing dogs.”

“I always recommend her *Dogsteps* book and video to anyone just beginning to show their dog,” Ing continued. “Since she did her revolutionary work in cineradiography, no one has done anything that matches her research and insights.” Pagey is so beloved by people in the dog world, Ing adds, that at least six people have named their dogs after her. There have been “Pageys” in the form of two Golden Retrievers, a black Labrador Retriever, a Bassett Hound, a Corgi and a Portuguese Water Spaniel — a fitting tribute to a remarkable woman.

*Editor note:*

*Pagey Elliott was a legendary breeder and world authority on canine movement. Her classic volume *Dogsteps* has been the definitive manual on canine movement for decades. Dog show judges and breeders around the world have relied upon this straightforward text and its “cineradiographic” illustrations to gain a more complete understanding of canine gait.*

*I had the good luck to meet with her at her home many years ago. Truly a legend in Golden Retriever history, I thought you might like to see one of her most well known dogs, “Irah”.*

## Am. CH. Synspur Irah Of Featherquest (11/22/1965-7/27/1975)



Call name:  
Gender: M  
Country of origin: United Kingdom  
Country of residence: Unknown  
Registration: AKC SA372001 (8/1967)  
Breeder: Mrs. K. Graham-White  
Owner: Rachel W. Elliott  
Image linked by: Brian Smith [[Click to edit image](#)]

### Pedigree:

	<a href="#">Eng. SH. CH. Samdor Stolford Samarkand</a>	<a href="#">Eng. CH. Samdor Nimble Nick ***</a>
	<a href="#">Synspur Stolford Andriscus</a>	<a href="#">Stolford Samantha</a>
Am. CH. Synspur Irah Of Featherquest	<a href="#">Stolford Contessa</a>	<a href="#">Stolford Beauchasse Comet</a> <a href="#">Stolford Brecklands Seniorita</a>
	<a href="#">Fordvale Bobbie Of Hughenden</a>	<a href="#">Eng. CH. Boltby Moonraker</a> <a href="#">Eng. CH. Beauchasse Gaiety</a>
	<a href="#">Synspur Sally</a>	<a href="#">Topper St Thomas</a> <a href="#">Juno Of Pandorainn</a>
	<a href="#">Juno Too Of Pandorainn</a>	

# MYRA SAVANT-HARRIS

## ADVANCED CANINE REPRODUCTION & PUPPY INTENSIVE CARE SEMINAR



**WHEN**  
**October 19th & 20th 2019**  
9:00 AM to 4PM Saturday—9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Sunday

**WHERE**  
**Beaver County Kennel Club**  
580 Jackson Street, Rochester, PA 15074

Author and Speaker on:

Canine Reproduction, Whelping, Breeding and Puppy Care

Myra Savant-Harris is a dog breeder and Registered Nurse with many years working in labor, delivery and neonatal ICU. Along with her interest in genetic research and experience in dog breeding, she brings a wealth of knowledge and techniques to help you in your breeding program. She is a sought-after and highly informative, entertaining speaker who has published several books.

Seminar covers sperm--in every conceivable way including counts & how to maximize your stud dog's capabilities. It includes the bitch's repro system from first heat to spay and includes all the information you'll need to coordinate the stud dog's capabilities together with the bitch's timing for breeding. There is also a lengthy amount of time devoted to whelping, stuck puppy and post partum care. Myra covers puppy from the beginning until the puppy leaves your home for placement. Questions from attendees invited and Myra tries to address all of the problems brought to her attention.

## ADVANCE TICKETS SALES

\$125 - before September 15th 2019

## GENERAL TICKET SALES

\$150 after September 15th

(if space is available)

***Make Checks or Money  
Order  
Payable to BCKC***

## SPONSOR

The Beaver County Kennel Club

Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be Provided



## QUESTIONS

Contact:

**Maurene Baum**  
**mbaum3@live.com**

**412-298-3694**

All correspondence will be answered as soon as possible

Mail Registration & Check or Money Order payable to BCKC to: **Maurene Baum 312 Moosehead Dr. Imperial, PA 15126**

Registration Confirmation will be emailed

Name

Address

Email

Phone




# GRCA FIELD EDITION REQUEST

To All the Golden Retriever Clubs:

Each year I write encouraging the Clubs to give consideration to taking out an ad in the Nov-Dec Field Theme Issue. This issue is predicated on the reason the Golden breed was established --- to hunt game for their owners. And, the dogs love doing what their original purpose was --- working with their owners in the field.

When breeds have drifted away, or been bred away to meet artificial standards, the breed is diminished and often is even less than a shadow of what the original breeders intended --- examples abound, but think of the Irish Setter, or the cocker --- when I was a child (eons ago) we had a cocker that my uncles and cousins always borrowed during hunting season as its natural attributes came to the fore under those conditions ---- she was definitely a natural hunter/retriever, as she was certainly untrained in any regard as you can probably imagine since my brother and I called her "Cuddles"! With what the breed has become, not only would my relatives refuse to hunt with her, they would greatly fear the possibility of being bitten by her! The Field Theme Issue is an opportunity for the Clubs to show their support for maintaining the original purpose of the Golden Retriever Breed and to honor their members who pursue the objective of having Golden Retrievers that are "primarily a hunting dog" and who understand why physically, many of the attributes contained in our Standard are listed there.

If the Club itself does not wish to do an ad (we will take any size ad!!) please would you encourage the members of your club who do field work of any nature to have their training group contribute an ad, or individuals do an ad honoring their Golden Retrievers in the field. The ads we have had in the past have been some of the most beautiful ones and the most talked about ones during each year. Nothing is more beautiful than seeing a Golden working in the field. Some of the ads have been very clever --- I still remember trying to find the hidden cat (obviously still doing what it was bred to do, hunting for game) that was done in an ad by the Potomac Valley GRC. We have had ones from the GRC of Hawaii which is above and beyond the call to duty as field work is truly a work of love in their restricted areas. Clubs have done ads to commemorate members who have had a variety of field titles.

Please would you present the above plea to your Club! Have them contact Sylvia, who is unbelievably creative, and ask for her thoughts and suggestions as to how your Club or your members could bring together an ad which honors those who are trying to maintain the original purpose of our breed.

Thank you for considering it.

Glenda Brown, Field Editor for the GRNews





## *Golden Retriever Club of America®*

### **Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA)**

All Golden lovers are encouraged to join our Parent Club, GRCA. The *GR News* is published bi-monthly by the GRCA and contains educational articles, provides a forum for issues of interest to Golden owners, highlights Golden accomplishments and contains correspondent columns from the Member Clubs across the country. Contact the Editor for more information.

### **GREATER PITTSBURGH GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB (GPGRC)**

- Member club of the Golden retriever Club of America, Inc. (GRCA)  
Master National Retriever Club (MNRC)  
Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, Inc. (PFDC)
- Licensed by the American Kennel Club (AKC) for Conformation Shows and Obedience, Rally and Agility Trials and Hunt Tests.

General Membership Meeting is held the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Membership applications are available from the Membership Chairperson. Attendance at two Club functions (one being a General Membership Meeting) and endorsement of two Club Members is required before an application can be accepted. Dues are: Regular Membership (individual) - \$25.00, a second adult – an additional \$13.00. Associate Membership (individual) - \$15.00, a second adult – an additional \$8.00. Junior Membership - \$1.00. Completed applications and dues are to be submitted to the Membership Chair.

Newsletter is posted monthly on the Club's Website at [www.gpgrc.org](http://www.gpgrc.org). Club members may request printed, mailed copies of the *Golden Gait* for a fee of \$20 per year.

Litter advertisements are accepted from Club Members only on a space available basis. (Fees are full page - \$10; half page - \$5; quarter page - \$2.50.) Refer to the Puppy Referral Policy and Breeder Code of Ethics for required clearances.

In summary, puppy referral is a service provided to GPGRC Members only. (1) Both sire and dam must be two years of age or older at the time of breeding; (2) copies of eye clearances within one year of breeding must be supplied; and (3) an OFA numbers for hips and elbows must be submitted. Also hearts must be evaluated by an approved veterinary cardiologist.

Acceptance and use of the information provided by GPGRC constitutes an acknowledgment that the user hereby releases and indemnifies the GPGRC and its Officers, Directors, Members and Agents from any and all liability and damages sustained by the user as a result of any information obtained from this organization.

Title/Award Record Form should be filled out and sent to the Accomplishments Recorder for all Conformation, Obedience, Tracking, Agility, Rally, Field Events or Community Service Events before they can be reported in the Newsletter.

## Monthly Meeting

The monthly meetings are held at the Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth, 301 Bellevue Rd 15229. Meeting begins at 7:30 P.M. Guests are Welcome!

Directions from I-279: Take exit 12 toward US 19/Perrysville Ave. At Perrysville Avenue, turn left. Go approximately .8 mile and turn left onto Bellevue Road (Sunoco Station on corner). Go approximately .5 mile and turn right to stay on Bellevue Road. End at 301 Bellevue Road. Entrance to complex is one way. Sign will direct you to building. Yellow brick building behind large red brick building is the meeting place. There is an open parking lot or 2 deck parking garage available.

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## OFFICERS

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## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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### Historian

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### Membership

Grace West  
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### Merchandise

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### Newsletter

Sally Dines  
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724-584-3300

### Puppy Referral

Pat Depp  
412-931-0590

### Program

Vacant  
Accepting Club Member  
Ideas and Requests to  
board members

### Rescue Liaison

John Osheka  
412-977-3870

### Specialty

Pat Depp  
412-931-0590  
Tammy Tomlinson  
724-238-4335

*Please email pictures of your dogs that can be used in future issues to [sallydines4120@gmail.com](mailto:sallydines4120@gmail.com)*

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