
 VCOI July  
 Membership Meeting  
 Will be held July 17th  
 at the Busch Farm  
 during the  
 Double Bubble.  
 Meeting will start  
 about 6:30PM following  
 the VCOI Steak Dinner.

American Field Registered Event

**Midwest Vizsla Futurity 2011 Winner**  
**Burr Oak's Red Neck Cowgirl "Casey"**  
 Owner: Jim Gingrich Breeder Ray Cooper



Does your breeding have what it takes?

Nomination forms and rules available at [www.vizslafuturity.com](http://www.vizslafuturity.com)



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

The Vizsla Club of Illinois, Inc

# BULLETIN

A bimonthly newsletter for the members and friends of the VCOI

May 2011

## CH HI-WEYER TOKAJI ASZU' JH



It is with pride and personal satisfaction to be able to have Ozzie on this cover. My first Vizslas came from Mike and Kathy Murphy. Ozzie was purchased from Michel Berner with the prospect of being a competitive dog. His solid dark color and positive attitude along with his love for his owner and friend made this possible. We got our first 4-point major and continued on. Last fall, over Labor day weekend, things really kicked in. We won Best of Breed over specials on Friday for our final major and completion of his Championship. Oz then finished the weekend of his championship with three back-to-back major Grand Champion Select Dog wins. He has handled 100% by amateurs in the ring. We showed in January in St. Paul and got another two wins for majors. The next day he went to winter camp for the field trial. Oz came out this spring, with me handling him, under the guidance of Jerry Jordan. We continued through the spring growing and gaining as a team. Oz ran clean multiple times in all breed and vizsla trials. We earned a few placements and got our first field point. Another highlight was Easter Sunday when the true dual dog came out. We went to the dog show in the morning and won Grand Champion Select Dog for another major. We left and returned to the all breed field trial where I was out of the suit and into the chaps and Oz ran clean two hours later. I could not have been happier. We are going to attain his Grand Championship and then go back to the field for the fall season. It all comes back to dedicated people reminding us what the sport was meant to be: a venue to showcase your special canine athletes. There are many thanks that need to be made: The judges that awarded placements in the field and ring. The breeders who strive for the continued excellence; and the competitors, who in good sportsmanship, offer assistance and well deserved criticism to make you better. You can be sure to see us this fall in the field and beyond.

The vizsla club of illinois, inc  
 Bulletin Editor  
 Shelly Kiefert  
 135 Lakeview Avenue  
 Edgerton, WI 53534



CH Hi-Weyer Tokaji Aszu' JH

OFA Hips: VZ-10866E30M-VPI OFA Elbows: VZ-EL925M30-VPI

FC AFC Raany SH VZ-5674G24M

FC O Mega VZ-9333G24M-P1

Avalon JH VZ-6036G26F

DC AFC Maximun Strider SH VZ-4861E24M-T

Strider's Three Little Birds VZ-9435G24F-P1

Melto-N-Futaki's Ramblin Red Zoe JH VZ-5689E34F-P1



ANDREW WEYER 651-631-3667 HI-WEYER@Q.COM

Place  
 Postage  
 Here



## VCOI Officers

### President ~ Pam Spurgeon

Belvidere, IL  
815-547-9027  
csvizslas@yahoo.com



### V.P. ~ Kathy Engelsman

Glen Ellyn, IL  
630-858-9043  
engelsman@juno.com



### Treasurer ~ Linda Busch

Winnebago, IL  
815.335.7673  
lbusch@aeroinc.net



### Secretary ~ Kim Barker

Palatine, IL  
847.359.4191  
valpo12841@aol.com



## 2010 Board of Directors

### Rodney Albin

Moscow Mills, MO  
636.366.9746  
rodneyalbin@centurytel.net



### Greg Hedien

Mundelein, IL  
847.566.6655  
diamondlakegreg@aol.com



### Brad Lepoudre

Elgin, IL  
847.888.1176  
lepoudre@comcast.net



### Jeff Parise

Chicago, IL  
773.774.1224  
jeffpis@comcast.net



### Brian Johnson

Gilberts, IL  
630.878.9247  
brian.johnson@cgl-ltd.com



### Dennis Nowak

Joliet, IL  
815.439.0720  
dennisnowak@sbcglobal.com

## Committee Chairs and Supernumeraries

### Field Trial Supernumerary

#### Greg Hedien

Refer to BOD list above

### Midwest Vizsla Field Futurity Standing Secretary

#### Rodney Albin

Moscow Mills, MO  
636.366.9746  
albinsquailfarm@worldnet.att.net

### Legislative Committee Chair

#### Mark Johnson

Winnebago, IL  
815.335.2959  
johnson2985@aeroinc.net

### Hunt Test Supernumeraries

#### Brad & Cindy Lepoudre

Refer to BOD list above

### Membership Chair & Directory Developer

#### Michelle Miklas

Plainfield, IL  
815.254.0277  
mmiklas@sbcglobal.net

### Webmaster

#### Jodi Cieslak

Geneva, IL  
630.232.4297  
vcoiwebmaster@gmail.com

### Specialty Standing Chair

#### Kathy Harmer

Refer to BOD list above

### Bulletin Editors

#### Shelly Kliefoth

135 Lakeview Avenue  
Edgerton, WI 53534  
608.359.9533  
skliefoth@yahoo.com



#### Cathy Gallagher ~ Distribution

Algonquin, IL  
847.458.5886  
siennapointe@dls.net



### Education Chair

#### Amanda Lounsbury Kosanda

Naperville, IL  
847.971.4655  
amanda.lounsbury@gmail.com



### VIRTUAL VIZSLA

VCOI Website: [www.vizslclubofillinois.org](http://www.vizslclubofillinois.org)  
Subscribe to the VCOI e-mail list:  
[VCOIinc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VCOIinc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Now on Facebook

## Bulletin Covers!

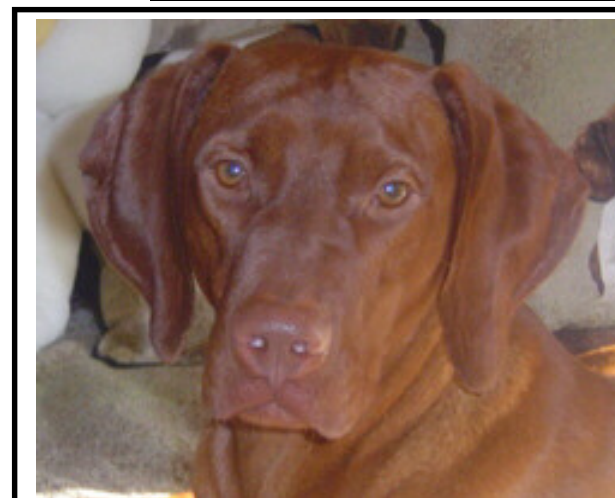
If your dog has completed a prefix title (CH, FC, AFC, CT, MACH, OTCH, etc.) and you would like to reserve a cover, please contact Shelly Kliefoth at [skliefoth@yahoo.com](mailto:skliefoth@yahoo.com). Next available cover is March 2012. Obviously we have many very talented members!! As soon as your dog completes the title, please let me know if you would like a cover.

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and do not constitute endorsement by the editorial staff, the VCOI or its Board of Directors. The VCOI endorses the efforts of the VCA and the OFA to eliminate hip dysplasia in dogs, and encourages its members to use only normal breeding stock. Advertising Rates Per Issue: Half Page \$10.00 Quarter Page \$5.00 Business Card \$2.50. Ads are limited to one half page per family per issue. Editor may limit advertising due to space limitations. Ads CANNOT be run until payment is received. All ads must be paid in full before printing and contain the full OFA rating of the sire and the dam. Copies of the OFA certificate must be sent with the ad. **Deadline for submission to the Bulletin is on the first of each even numbered month.** Deadlines are non-negotiable! Cover stories are limited to one per family membership in a 12 month period. All brags, articles, and submissions must be submitted in writing either through the minutes or directly to the Editor. All photos submitted to the Bulletin must include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope. Photos without return postage will remain the property of the VCOI. Exception to the cover photo, which will be returned at the VCOI's expense. Digital photos are preferred.

## Kojac Kennels, Inc.

Jerry Jordan, Professional Trainer  
Full-time year-round training  
Specializing in force breaking  
Training programs for all Pointing breeds  
Summer & Winter camps available  
For more information Contact Jerry at:  
319-433-2604      3303 56th St. Trail  
319-270-7616(cl)      Cedar Point, IA 52213  
[kojac@fmtcs.com](mailto:kojac@fmtcs.com)

To 05/11



## AT STUD: CH. ARCHIEE, JH

Archiee is off to a good field start and already has a Gun Dog placement. We expect good things from him considering he has our Hall of Fame dog DC/AFC Askim, MH, NSTRA Ch on both sides of his pedigree. Archiee is OFA Excellent and produces beautiful dark rust puppies. He is the sire to 2010 National Open Derby Champion Don Juan de Bucz "Donner" owned by Debbie Reid in Canada and handled by Brian Gingrich, and Ch. Zeeva, JH who has an Amateur Walking Derby first place and is owned by us. There are many other Vizslas sired by Archiee doing extremely well in competition whether it is shows or the field. For more information about puppies or stud dog services, contact Jim or Linda Busch at [815-335-7673](tel:815-335-7673).

To 09/11

## Vizsla Embroidered Fashions

Shirts							Hats				
Item	Qty	Color	Embroidered Style	Size	Price Each	Total	Item	Qty	Color	Price Each	Total
Heavyweight T-Shirts					\$16.00		Vizsla & Pheasant		Orange	\$16.00	
Crewneck Sweatshirt					\$22.00		Pheasant		Orange	\$16.00	
Hooded Sweatshirt					\$28.00		Vizsla Word		Tan	\$16.00	
Denim Shirt					\$27.50		Additional Monogramming- Qty _____ x \$5.00 Each Item      Order Subtotal: _____				
Sweatshirt			Large Word Vizsla & Dog		\$30.00		UPS Shipping Available for an Additional \$5.00      Monogram: _____				
Sweatshirt			VCOI Club Logo (Not Embroidered)		\$18.00		Shipping: _____				
Denim Shirt		Denim	VCOI Club Logo		\$31.50		TOTAL: _____				
Denim Shirt		Denim	Vizsla Logos		\$27.50		Monogram Details - Additional \$5 each				

Additional Charges for XXL & Above.  
Additional Monogramming of Your Name, Dog's Name, OR Kennel Name—\$5.00 each.

Available in these Embroidered Styles:



Vizsla & Pheasant



Vizsla Word & Dog



Vizsla on Point



VCOI Club Logo



Vizsla Club of Illinois

VCOI Club Logo (Not Embroidered)

To Order ~ Complete Order Form and Mail to:

Kathy Harmer  
7541 Edwardsville Road  
Rockford, IL 61102  
Or Call 815-877-8079  
Or E-mail [Polarkap@att.net](mailto:Polarkap@att.net)

Vizsla Logos can be Embroidered on your favorite garment...  
Call for a Quote



# Brag's Page



From Michel Berner: Colt finished his Championship at the Badger Kennel Club show on May 6 under Richard Byrd when he won the 4-point major! Pending AKC approval, he is now CH Mira's Peacemaker, owned by Michel Berner, bred by Colisha Schallock, handled by Sheila Stahr



Mira's Peaceful Forecast picked up her first two show points at the Indianhead Kennel Club show May 15 under judge Elliott Weiss when she was awarded Winners Bitch, Best of Winners and then went Best of Breed over a special. Zen was breeder-owner handled to the win by Michel Berner

From Jodi Cieslak: We've had a fantastic first season for our young bitch "FireFly", Tru Light Up the Night. Following are her placements:

- 02/19/2011 Gateway Vizsla Club - Open Puppy - 2nd place (6 starters)
  - 02/19/2011 Gateway Vizsla Club - Open Derby - 3rd place (9 starters)
  - 04/01/2011 Gateway Vizsla Club - Open Derby - 4th place (19 starters)
  - 04/09/2011 Central Wisconsin Vizsla Club - Open Puppy - 1st place (8 starters)
  - 04/09/2011 Central Wisconsin Vizsla Club - Open Derby - 1st place (6 starters)
  - 04/16/2011 Hawkeye Vizsla Club - Open Puppy - 2nd place (9 starters)
  - 04/30/2011 Vizsla Club of Eastern Iowa - Open Derby - 2nd place (7 starters)
  - 05/05/2011 Northstar Weimaraner Club - Open Derby - 1st place (11 starters)
- Thanks to Brian Gingrich of BG Gundogs for all his hard work and effort with Fly.

From Shelly Kliefloth: Lakeview's Honey Wine "Mead" earned her 3rd leg towards her Junior Hunter title handled by our 10 year old grandson Jaden. His very first Hunt Test. Many thanks to Brian Gingrich for his training with both Mead & Jaden!



## President's Message

As summer is upon us, we need to remember to keep our dogs safe. Bring them indoors when it is too hot and give them lots of water and shade when they are outdoors. July is a big month for the VCOI with two days of Specialty shows and the Double Bubble. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at these events. Thank you to all of our volunteers who are planning these festivities, there is a lot of work that goes into these events and I personally want to thank all who helped in advance for their hard work.

Enjoy your Vizslas!!!  
Pam Spurgeon  
VCOI President

**George's Custom Woodworking**  
Design, Build, Repair & Refinish

George C. Haines

(H) 815-344-1836  
(M) 815-482-6556

gchwoodworking@sbcglobal.net

Mike Cell (630) 885-4788  
(630) 365-0221

**Dalby Decorating**  
*Over 25 Years Experience*

Interior Painting • Staining  
Drywall Repair • Faux Finish

## Placements for the Paw Paw Walking Field Trial held May 21-22, 2011

Shelly Kliefloth and I would like to THANK everyone that helped with this trial. We had a large number of entries and because of the willingness of our volunteers and committee members it was a successful trial. THANK YOU AGAIN!!!

Shelly Kliefloth and Michelle Princer

### Open Puppy

- 1.) CK Touchdown Guy
- 2.) Pyd Piper
- 3.) Skegemog Point Princess Zoey
- 4.) Ramblin Rivers Crimson Rayne

Ron Chenoweth  
Mark Vitkaus  
Jeff Zenas  
Bill Stapleton

### Open Gun Dog

- 1.) Weglers Kember Kayla
- 2.) JB's Asker Bout Birds
- 3.) Ramblin Rivers Ava Matava
- 4.) Abby Rose Johnson

Greg Wegler  
Joanne Beckley  
Bill Stapleton  
Brian Johnson

### Open Derby

- 1.) Carmen-Gia
- 2.) Juno of Busch Farms
- 3.) Hey Soul Sister
- 4.) Burr Oak's DuRite Tess

Linda Busch  
Joanne/Jeremy Weber  
Joel Peterson  
Jim Gingrich

### Amateur Walking Derby

- 1.) Hey Soul Sister
- 2.) Burr Oak's DuRite Tess
- 3.) Carmen-Gia
- 4.) Ramblin Rivers Crimson Rayne

Joel Peterson  
Jim Gingrich  
Linda Busch  
Bill Stapleton

### Open Limited Gun Dog

- 1.) Crimson's Twenty Gauge Ruger
- 2.) Weglers Penny Lane
- 3.) Rolling Rock
- 4.) JB's Asker Bout Birds

Mark Spurgeon  
Greg Wegler  
Mike Dalby  
Joanne Beckley

### Amateur Gun Dog

- 1.) Burr Oak's Kick Em Up Jake
  - 2.) Weglers Penny Lane
  - 3.) Triple Ott Magnum
  - 4.) Smokin JRD
- Award of Merit Abby Rose Johnson

Jim Gingrich  
Greg Wegler  
Rodney Albin  
Rodney Albin  
Brian Johnson

## Canine Good Citizen Award (CGC testing)



At the Double Bubble event on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> this year we will have an AKC qualified CGC evaluator testing dogs for the Canine Good Citizen Award. The evaluator will start testing at noon. The fee is \$25 for this test. If you are interested in testing, please contact Linda Busch to make a reservation/entry. This test will be open to Vizslas and any other breed.

Linda Busch – [lbusch@aeroinc.net](mailto:lbusch@aeroinc.net) or 815-335-7673.

If you are not familiar with CGC, it is an award given to dogs that pass a 10 step process. Also, owners must sign the "Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge" which states they "agree to take care of their dog's health needs, safety, exercise, training, and quality of life. They also agree to show responsibility by doing things such as cleaning up after their dogs in public places and never letting dogs infringe on the rights of others."

The 10 step process includes:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Test 1: Accepting a friendly stranger. | Test 2: Sitting politely for petting.                 |
| Test 3: Appearance and grooming.       | Test 4: Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead).     |
| Test 5: Walking through a crowd.       | Test 6: Sit and down on command and Staying in place. |
| Test 7: Coming when called.            | Test 8: Reaction to another dog.                      |
| Test 9: Reaction to distraction.       | Test 10: Supervised separation.                       |

The "title" of CGC may be used in advertising and on a pedigree but is not considered an official title as in the ranks of other titles like Dual Champion, Champion, Field Champion, Obedience Champion, etc. Those dogs that pass will receive an official certificate from AKC.

For more information on the specifics of each test, please go to the AKC web site at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) and click on Events/cgc/training. Under training/testing click on CGC test items for the 10 step list and explanation. You can also research Evaluators/evaluators guide for more information. There is not an age limit for the test at Double Bubble, and again, it is open to all breeds.

**M  
a  
r  
k  
  
Y  
o  
u  
r**

**Vizsla Specialty Show ~ July 15-17 2011**

Kishwaukee Valley Kennel Club all-breed Dog Show  
Contact Kathy Harmer for more details.

**Double Bubble ~ July 16 & 17 2011**

Busch Farm  
Contact Shelly Kliefoth or Michelle Princer for more details.

**July Meeting ~ Saturday July 16th**

Busch Farm  
During the Double Bubble Steak Dinner.

**September Membership Meeting ~ Septemer 14th**

Wednesday September 14th from 6:30-8:30 PM  
Village Pizza & Pub 2496 N Randall Rd. Elgin, IL  
All you can eat Pizza & Pop for \$11.50  
Please RSVP to Pam at pamsprugeon@yamil.com by Sept 7th

**September Field Trial ~ September 23, 24 & 25 2011**

Pyramid State Park, Denmark Unit, Pickneyville, IL  
Contact Brian Gingrich for more details.

**October Field Trial ~ October 29 & 30 2011**

Ottawa Field Trial Grounds  
Contact Bill or Melissa Stapelton for details.

**November Membership Meeting ~ Nov 15th 6:30 PM**

Cabelas ~ Hoffman Estates, IL  
Catered by Tony's of Winnebago  
Please RSVP to Pam at pampurgeon@ymail.com by Nov 10

**Christmas Party & Awards Banquet ~ January 14 2012**

Details Coming Soon.

**C  
a  
l  
e  
n  
d  
a  
r  
s**



**Membership Application**  New Member  Renewal

Name of Primary Member:		Name of Secondary Member:	
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone:	E-Mail:		
Cell:	Website:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Members will automatically receive an invitation to join the VCOIinc@yahoogroups list to receive notice of event information, reservation forms, brags, questions, and entries. <b>Initial here ____ only if you do not wish to receive the vcoiinc@yahoogroups.com invitation. If you are currently on the list, please include your Yahoo username you use on the list ____.</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Club members may receive notice of events electronically. <b>Initial here ____ only if you do not have computer access and require any event information via ground mail.</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> All club members will be published in the VCOI Membership Directory. <b>Initial here ____ only if you do not wish to have your information published in the directory.</b>			
By applying for/renewing my/our membership in the Vizsla Club of Illinois Inc., I/we agree to:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Constitution and By-Laws of the VCOI</li> <li>• Abide by the rules of the American Kennel Club and other sanctioning entities of VCOI events</li> <li>• Encourage high standards in breeding, training, and showing of Vizslas, and</li> <li>• Promote the welfare of the Vizsla breed</li> </ul>			
Membership in the VCOI entitles me/us to a voice in all club matters and club elections and to delivery of the VCOI Bulletin to the above listed address. It is my/our responsibility to inform the VCOI Membership Chair of any information updates.			
Club and/or Volunteer Interests: (check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trials	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunt Tests	<input type="checkbox"/> Specialty Show/Supported Entry	<input type="checkbox"/> Fun Days
<input type="checkbox"/> Training Days	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion (Sports Shows & Pet Fairs)	
Who referred you to join the VCOI?			
Signature of Primary and/or Applicant/Renewing Member:			Date:
Sponsor Signature for New Applicant		Sponsor Signature for New Applicant	
Send form with \$25 check payable to VCOI to: VCOI Membership c/o Michelle Miklas 1801 Caton Ridge Dr. Plainfield, IL 60586		<b>Membership Chair use only:</b> Date Received: Check #	

Note: Membership renewals are due no later than July 31 for directory listing  
Revised May 2011



Call to Order @ 7:30pm

**Approval of Minutes.** Michelle Princer motioned. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Susan Burgo. PASSED.

**Treasurer's Report** – approximately \$13K in account. Sent IL Conservation Foundation donation of \$100. Field Trial Clubs of IL advertisement in awards bulletin will be \$149 for large VCOI Logo.

**Field Trials** – Michelle Princer & Shelley Kliefoth are chairs for May walking trial. Last 2 walking trials we have had 60 to 67 dogs entered. We have 91 entries for this weekend. There will be 2 courses. We need assistance for running trial. Several people from out of state have entered. Dinner will be on the grounds. There are judging changes as Julie is having knee surgery. Need extra horses, so bring them if you have them. Water on the grounds in not potable drinking water, so bring water for your animals. Need generator for lights in the tent.

**(Amateur Field Trial Club of America (AFTCA)** – is going to charge for registration for their events (American Field). Propose \$3.50 for first stake dog enters; \$3 for second stake dog enters. The FTCIL charges \$1 per dog. It needs to be clarified what the charge is for: 1) dogs entered; 2) dual registration; 3) what stakes does this impact. American Field Trial charges club for advertisement in newsletter. Pam will send back letter for more information on complete costs. We need to support IL field trial club activities. We will find out more from our trustee. Need to find out from Mark Johnson, who we need to contact.

**NGD Museum** – Adding an addition to museum for continental breeds. Looking for donations. Donations from American Field Trial Club and private donations accepted.

**June Training Day** –Mark Spurgeon. June 4<sup>th</sup> at Ottawa field trial grounds on Saturday morning. Need to know how many people are coming, so we can order birds. Starts at 8am. Have helpers, just need people to attend.

**Hunt Test** – June 5<sup>th</sup>. Taking entries on Saturday. Total of 38 dogs ran last year.

**Hunt Test** - April 16-17 – Less than 30 dogs were entered each day. Not enough entries. Made \$545 profit. Nice event, good feedback from everyone. Recommended that we continue to do this event in April.

**Specialty – July 16-17** (Kathy Englesman) –Donations were fantastic over \$2000 was raised. All trophies were sponsored. Added expenses for tents (\$375 for each tent). Premium has been approved. Separate classes from regular classes. Sweeps \$20, Regular classes \$27. Breeder judge from east coast is Diane Shearer (PA).Rachel Romono is judging Sweeps. Early ring times both days.

**Hunt Test – Labor Day** – Need ideas for judges. 5 hunt tests for that weekend. Grounds were in poor condition.

**Field Trial – Sept 2011** (Bryan Gingrich) – Discussed moving fall field trial to Pickneyville. Potential dates are Sept 10 or Sept 24<sup>th</sup> both are open. Motion made to move field trial to Pickneyville by Bryan Gingrich. Seconded by Joe Fitzsimmons. Motion PASSED. CWVC wants to move acquire Ottawa grounds for their fall field trial on the weekend before VCOI field trial.

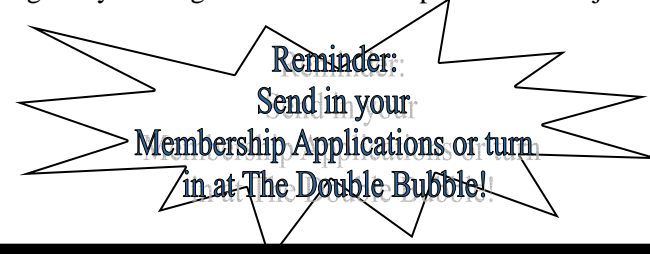
**Field Trial** – October Ottawa – Bill and Missy Stapleton have volunteered as Chair and Secretary the event. Need mentor to help them get started. Kim Barker will mentor them.

VCOI Logo decals are for sale for \$3 each.

Please call Julie Sullie (VCA rescue) they need rescue person for IL. Need volunteers let Pam or Julie know if you are interested in helping.

Visitors – Teresa Gimbut from Tampa, FL.

Braggs – Joe Fitzsimmons's Sage finished her FC at 2years, 8 months old. Trained/Handled by Bryan Gingrich and Bred by Jim Busch. Kathy Englesman – Ralph finished his GCH at 13 years old in 6 shows, #3 in country. Stevie went RWB, RWB and WB/BW/BOS at the CWVC Specialty. Penny, 10 years old finished MACH5. Mark Spurgeon- Ruger won NVA National Championship, 1-hour stakes, 38 dogs ran. Ruger won VCA NGDC in TN. Ruger puppies did well in VCA NGD puppy stakes: Reed (1<sup>st</sup> place), 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> went to pups out of Ruger's breedings. Bryan Gingrich – Jake won 3 point OGD major at GSPC of MI trial.





# DOUBLE BUBBLE WEEKEND



## July 16-17, 2011

**All the fun takes place at the dog show in Belvidere or the Busch Farm, Winnebago, IL.**

**This is a good place to learn about some fo the things your dog can do in a fun and non-threatening environment with plenty of people to teach and help you.**

**Bring your vizsla(s), bring your kids, and head out to the farm for a fun filled weekend.**

FRIDAY EVENTS

- **All-Breed dog show at Boone County Fairgrounds, Belvidere IL. (a.m. show time TBD later).**

SATURDAY EVENTS

- **VCOI Specialty show & Sweeps (held at the Boone County Fairgrounds, Belvidere, IL (a.m. time TBD later) Luncheon on show grounds provided by VCOI ladies.**
- **Lake Inferior Tyro Hunting Dog Classic 11:00 a.m. at Busch Farm. (a mock hunt test after training seminar)**
- **Membership meeting and free steak dinner for members (non-members may attend-dinner \$10) 6:00 p.m.**

SUNDAY EVENTS

- **VCOI Specialty Show and Sweeps held at the Boone County Fairgrounds Belvidere, IL (a.m. show time TBD later)**

SUNDAY EVENTS CONT'D

- \* **CGC official testing for title (this event open to all breeds)**
- \* **Locate & Point (timed field event)**
- \* **Wing & String for pups**
- \* **Bird Planting contest for kids**
- \* **2012 Calendar Photo Contest**
- \* **Fun games for dogs**
- \* **Powder Puff Derby for ladies only**
- \* **Raffle**
- \* **Pigeon Races**
- \* **Rubber Ducky race**
- \* **Dog Show seminar for newbies**
- \* **Obstacle Course**
- \* **"Vizsla Idol" or "Vizslas Got Talent" dog trick contest**
- \* **Dog Cake Walk**
- \* **vizsla items for sale**
- \* **Dog photographer**
- \* **Hot Dog/Chips/Soda lunch and much, much more**
- \* **Trophies/Prizes awarded for most events.**

**More posted on the club's web site under Events/Double Bubble with event descriptions. Contact Michelle Princer (dariespice@aol.com or Shelly Kliefoth (skliefoth@yahoo.com) for more info also. Maps and show times posted on web site after July 6th.**



## Otis (The Vizsla) Teaches Life Lessons

by Zach Simpson

*Zach Simpson is a 16-year-old from Wadsworth, IL, who knows exactly what he wants for his future. An All Honors or Advanced Placement student, this Junior is heavily involved in competitive shooting as well as his Hunting Test activities with his Vizsla, Otis, who Zach trained and handled to his Master Hunter title. Even though the future holds college in Minnesota and studying Business and Finance, Zach expects to continue his dog-related activities.*

*Zach and his Dad, Bob, are involved with the dogs while Mom (Beth) and sister (Hanna) work with horses. And even though Zach's family is split on hobbies, both groups make time to support and cheer each other on. During the summer, Zach was able to start his day volunteering at a therapeutic riding facility before going out to train Otis.*

*Along with his Dad, Zach has benefitted from the help of Tim May and Joel Peterson. It was shortly after receiving Otis as an early birthday present that Zach joined Tim May's training group.*

*Zach was not exactly a newbie to hunting as he and his Dad had hunted upland game behind Labs. However, winning a pheasant hunt in 2008 through the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and hunting behind a German Wirehaired Pointer convinced this young hunter a pointing dog was the type for him.*

*From here, we'll let Zach tell his and Otis' journey and how this young man balanced school and dog training to finish Otis' Master Hunter title when he was 18 months old.*

In early February of 2009, I was delighted to be able to attend "Pheasant Fest," which was hosted by Pheasants Forever in Madison, WI. Being a young hunter, I was very interested in the many aspects of bird hunting. This event was like a walk through the candy store with a \$20 bill in my pocket. I learned about everything from guns to recipes, but the most significant part was seeing all of the different types of hunting dogs. My father and I had been looking to buy a hunting dog to continue a sort of "Weekend Warrior" passion, but had no clue where to start.

I remember at the end of the day coming to one of the last booths and just falling in absolute love with the Vizsla. Immediately my dad stated, "We are going to get one of those." Little did we know, four months later a small brown puppy would be on his way home and would turn our recreational hobby into a full-time sport.

My family worked to research about breeders, training and accommodating for a puppy. The breeder we found was Busch Vizslas out of Winnebago, IL. This was a great choice in that the breeders, Jim and Linda, embodied over fifty years of experience. Another benefit was the pedigree of the litter we chose showed many titles; MH, JH, SH, AFC, DC, CGC and a NSTRA CH. This pedigree showed our puppy would have a strong gene pool in relation to hunting, testing and competing. The pup was to be born on March 18, 2009, which meant we were able to pick him up in May, thus began our journey in the world of sporting dogs. Finally, our new pup, Otis, was coming home – an early birthday present as my 15th was only a month away. A few weeks later, my father and I went to some trial grounds to see how a field trial works and to meet some of the members from our local Vizsla club. While we were there, we met Tim May who invited us to join him and his training group later in the week. What a wish come true, now we could effectively train Otis with the help of experienced dog people. So in early June, Otis and I began our journey.



Zach and Otis earn Master Hunter title



Zach and Amber placing fourth at a field trial



Zach Simpson pheasant hunting



Zach and Otis attain Junior Hunter

My Father was a great supporter; a man who has always pushed me to be better and do the unthinkable. I attribute my success to his encouragement and support. When we first started training, my dad said to me, "Zach, Otis is going to become a Junior Hunter before hunting season." Sure enough, he did. By the end of the summer we had about seven guys with around 15 dogs coming out bi-weekly to train. In late September, we decided to enter Otis in Junior Hunter with me as his Junior Handler. It was scary at first but looking back, there was nothing to fear because the judges, line marshals, and fellow competitors were all very pleasant and willing to answer any questions. Four passes out of five attempts later, 7-month-old Otis and his 15-year-old handler had achieved the Junior Hunter title.

There was no time for celebration, hunting season had just opened and it was time to give Otis the true test. Throughout the season, Otis' bird finding ability was excellent but because of his immaturity, his retrieving and steady to shot skills were minimal.

After the season was over and the freezer was full, it was time for a few months of rest before we were to do it all over again. My Dad and I brainstormed what we wanted out of Otis in 2010. My Dad's message was similar to the one before: "Zach it's time to set the bar high; this year we are going to work to make Otis a Master Hunter."

After the snow had melted and temperatures warmed I was eager for another summer of training dogs. Otis' bird work grew substantially and his retrieving and steady to shot skills were established. Once again by late September, Otis and I were ready for Hunting Tests. But instead of Senior Hunter, we would pursue Master Hunter. In nine attempts Otis passed six times. One of my fondest test memories was his third or fourth run, when he found five birds in the back field and two in the bird field. To top it off, his backing and retrieving was spot on. When the scores came back he received a 59, only one shy of a perfect score! On October 2, 2010 Otis officially became a Master Hunter at the age of 18 months which added to the overall success of our training group: Four Master Hunters and three Junior Hunters in a little less than a year. I was elated with the results from my determination but at the same time pleasantly surprised.

I have continued to work with Otis but have been privileged to volunteer and participate in not only Hunting Tests but field trials, too. I ran one of the dogs from the training group, Amber, in Open Puppy field trial and placed first. This helped her to get two points towards her field championship that she is currently working on.

Aside from AKC events, I have been blessed with more hunting opportunities than I would have ever dreamed of before. I have hunted pheasant in three states, chukar, quail and was even successful with grouse in the northern woods of Wisconsin.

My motto is work hard, never give up, and set goals. Just because we, the youth, may know less than those who have been in the sport for many years, we still can achieve and do our part. My final piece of advice is take it all in and really get involved in your local dog clubs because we are the next generation and without us America will lose an important pastime, hunting.

This article was published on the AKC website. Permission to republish given by AKC.