

President's Message:

Hi all,

Already half the year almost over, and summer is almost here. In fact heard it was going to warm up here pretty quickly.

Spring Hunt Test is over and although I was unable to attend due to work, I heard it was a huge success! A big thank you to Brian Cooke for taking on the task of Chairing the test, as I well know is not easy getting everything to move along as should be. Thank you also to all his committee members and all the volunteers that helped in the field and otherwise. Congratulations to everyone who got a ribbon, titled or Master National qualified their dogs!

Here is a summary of Brian's comments:

Spring 2013 Hunt Tests:

Many thanks to all that helped out at our tests this year at Teal Lodge:

Carol Brady-----Test Secretary & Marshaling
Joe Brakke-----Equipment, live gun, organized birds, Meals & Sleeping arrangements at Teal
Pat Cooke-----Marshaling & Hospitality
Billie Helwick-----Hospitality & Judging Junior & other
Mark Helwick-----Hospitality & other
Brad Hjlem-----Live gun (& friend) & equipment
Dan Hunter-----Live gun & equipment
Betty King-----Marshaling
Scott Kling-----Equipment & live gun
Dennis Long-----Equipment & Birds
Nancy Rompa----Marshaling
Vic Rompa-----Judging
Edna Schenk-----Marshaling

Thanks to anyone else that helped or I am not aware of or might have forgotten.

Brag:

Master:

Brian Cooke-----2 passes & titled
Dennis Long-----2 passes & qualified for Master National
Gloria Mundell-----Pass & qualified for Master National

Senior:

Brad Hjlem-----pass

Left-Hand Lake, looks like there is not water anymore so there will not be any training there at this time. Joe Brakke who just recently went out there to train passed on this information to me.

Fall Test: will be approaching soon, more information to follow on that very shortly. Tentative dates for the test will be August 24 & 25th, 2013.

Please feel free to contact anyone on the board with any question or concerns you may have at anytime throughout the year. Sorry this is out late, been busy at work and such things that require my attention as well!

Best regards,

Gabriele (Gaby), President, CFRC

Other Events

[Snake Avoidance](#) Clinic
at Bearpoint / Black Forest Kennels
July 13-14

WC/AWC
Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Denver
Planned for August 3 in Elizabeth, CO

Hunter Safety Course dates:

~June 22nd and 23rd~

~August 10th & 11th~

All classes held at Valhalla Bijou, Bennett CO.

9:00 to 5:00 Saturday and Sunday

Cost \$20/student (Lunch provided)

All supplies included

Russell MacLennan

Hunter Safety Instructor

303-644-4300 (Clubhouse)

gundog1976@aol.com

See Next page.....from the Fort Collins Coloradoan, May 20 2013

11-year-old doesn't let blindness prevent her from training dog to hunt

Written by
Matt L. Stephens



*Maddie Stallman, a blind 11-year-old, receives help from her father Mike Stallman, in grabbing a duck from the mouth of Nelli during hunting tests of the American Kennel Club on May 4 east of Fort Collins.
/ Courtesy of Vic Schendel*

The terrain east of Fort Collins isn't exactly mountains, but it still is rugged, especially for 11-year-old Maddie Stallman.

Walking 30 yards from the street to a hunting blind through shrubs and a constant change in elevation isn't the easiest task for those who can see, but it's much more of an obstacle for Stallman because she is blind.

Accompanied by her 14-month-old yellow Lab, Nelli, on one side and her father, Mike Stallman, on the other, Maddie hiked through the rough ground to compete in her first American Kennel Club hunting tests May 4 at the Colorado Youth Outdoors' Swift Ponds property just east of Interstate 25.

Maddie and Nelli approached the starting line, while down the hill a duck was released into the air. After three quacks and the crack of a shotgun, it fell to the ground and off ran Nelli to retrieve it.

It's one of the most basic tests by the AKC. The dog must find the duck, return it to the handler and drop it in their hands. Nelli followed instructions to a fault, but with one hand occupied holding a cane, finding the duck became a challenge for Maddie.

“Some parts of this were a bit frustrating, and I couldn’t get the duck (in my hands) the first time easily, which was hard,” Maddie said. “The second time, I just grabbed the duck better.”

Maddie swiped at the duck as Nelli dropped it, repeatedly missing during the first retrieval. But with duck No. 2, Maddie took a new approach, wrapping her arms around Nelli’s neck like she was giving her a big hug, creating a basket to catch the bird.

It was a legal, unorthodox approach, but Mike knew his daughter would face unique challenges on the course as did judges from the Fort Collins Retriever Club.

“They’ve never had a blind person do it. I didn’t realize it was that rare,” Mike said. “It’s hard for a person to handle a dog when they can’t see it, so I wrote a letter to AKC explaining Maddie’s situation. It’s not to cheat or change the rules, but the AKC helped accommodate us to let me help her. You usually can’t have two people come to the line.”

Mike wanted Maddie to have a chance to participate in a sport he’s loved for 40 years. Even if it might be harder for her than most handlers, a lack of sight shouldn’t mean she has a lack of opportunity.

Though Maddie uses an aide at school, she fits in seamlessly with sighted students at Monarch Elementary in Louisville. She’s aware of her disability — caused by Leber’s congenital amaurosis, which means she can differentiate light from dark — but happily lives with it.

Maddie picked Nelli from a litter in Edson, Kan., and trained the Lab herself. Being allowed to run her through field tests only seemed fair. The AKC and FCRC agreed.

“We said she could absolutely participate. Bring her out, we always want to get kids out here,” said John Montenieri, an FCRC committee member who helps coordinate AKC events. “For someone like her to be able to come out and run her dog and enjoy the outside and participate in something like this is awesome. I can’t tell you how awesome it is for her and her dad to be out here.”

The Stallmans wanted to have the experience of other handlers to see if hunting tests were something Maddie would enjoy.

Maddie loves Nelli and playing fetch is one of their favorite games, but using live ducks might not be the retrieving object with which they stick. Throwing a dummy duck in the front yard works fine, with fewer distractions for a hyper puppy.

“I’m glad we got to do this, but I don’t know what I’d do without something like a restricting collar. She’d probably run all over the field thinking ‘duck, duck, duck,’” Maddie said. “It’s a lot different in the neighborhood with less dogs around. I just want to feed her ice cubes and roll on the floor with her. I really just like doing that.”

Follow reporter Matt L. Stephens at twitter.com/mattstephens and facebook.com/stephensreporting.