



Obichaff

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.



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"They say the smart dog obeys, but the smarter dog knows when to disobey." —Amy Hempel

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Originally from New York, I've lived in the DC metro area since 2016. I love so many things about living here, but few of these things come

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Information**

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board member)**

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close to springtime in The District. The colors of peach and cherry blossoms coat the city and its surrounding areas in a hopeful and bright pink, covering up the brown hues of winter. Please check out my article below for the greatest blossom-spotting sites, complete with member submitted photos. I hope to see some of you out there enjoying peak bloom with your dogs!

As a reminder, please send any Obichaff related entries, feedback on what you'd like to see more/less of, brags, and more to our new Obichaff email: cdtcobichaff@gmail.com

Barkin' for Blossoms



Judith Tabler's Bobby (CH Skyeluck Bulletproof CD BN RN CGCA TKN) in the Cherry Blossoms after they have fallen

It's that glorious time of year again...

The weather is getting warmer, and buds are forming on the trees. In the DMV, this means Cherry Blossom Season is right around the corner. In some places, peach blossoms have already begun to bloom. The real magic comes when the Yoshino Cherry Trees join them. Made possible by a 1912 gift from the Mayor of Tokyo, people from

all over now flock to our city to see this beautiful display of pink petals, year after year. How lucky are we to have access to this, sometimes in our own backyards!

There are multiple spots to view the Cherry Blossoms with your canine companion by your side - talk about a photo op! Check out some of our members enjoying blossom-spotting with their pups!



Gwyn Jones' Golden, Cap, enjoying the Basin Blossoms!



When asked to think of DC Cherry Blossoms, it's often the Tidal Basin that comes to mind. Planted in 1912 under the Taft administration, some 3,000 trees entirely transformed the Tidal Basin into what it is today. These trees, juxtaposed to the Tidal Basin's waters, make for a stunning sight.

The downside of the Tidal Basin is how quickly it draws a crowd. During peak hours, thousands of people crowd the sidewalks. It's not an ideal spot for a dog walk, especially for dogs who may be a bit spooked by strangers. If you have a social pup who doesn't mind crowds, an afternoon walk around the basin on a sunny day will be perfect.

A pro-tip for those of us with less social pups, go at sunrise. You'll have to get up early to beat the crowds, but the views will be worth it!



Gwyn Jones' Cap, 2022

Looking to avoid the Tidal Basin all together, but still want to see rows and rows of those pastel pink petals? Check out the Kenwood neighborhood in Bethesda, Maryland.

Containing about half as many trees as the basin, this spot still packs a punch. The streets have beautiful homes, and converge at a small traffic circle, which opens to a quaint stream. I recommend seeking out parking somewhere along the Capital Crescent Trail, and following that until you land in Trail Park. This little park and playground open right up to the Kenwood neighborhood and will allow for easier access to these magnificent trees, as the neighborhood does not allow street parking during peak bloom.



**Pam Coblyn's Fenway, along
the creek in Kenwood**



Dianne Harab's Bosco and Willy in Kenwood

If you really want to avoid big crowds, struggle to walk long distances, want a little variety in your blossoms, or live in NE DC/Prince George's County - the National Arboretum is likely the place for you!

With over 70 varieties of cherry trees, the National Arboretum's self guided tour is a stunner. 70 varieties might sound daunting, and I'd have to agree since they are spread out over the more than 400 acres there, however, there is a solution! Via the [Arboretum's app](#), petal peepers and their pups can take a self-guided tour. In a photo below, taken on one of these tours, one can see that each tree is labeled with a hot pink numbered sign. This makes identifying each tree a breeze. The beauty of this location is it's accessibility via car. Many people may struggle with the mileage they'd need to cover to see many of these trees. The National Arboretum has numerous roads that allow one to drive through and view cherry blossoms from their car, or walk a shorter distance to see closer.

This is a great spot for dogs who need a little more wide open space than cramped city sidewalks.



My yorkie mix Zoey, since passed away, loved the arboretum Cherry Blossoms!



The final recommendation is one that is often overlooked, but brings its own special type of beauty. The Catholic University of America's campus contains a multitude of cherry trees. It's hard to miss the Basilica, as it is the largest in the western hemisphere! Park in the parking lot there, and wander around the grounds; they're expertly manicured and provide for a serene and shady walk. The campus is a bit hilly, so do keep that in mind. Dogs will love getting their paws wet in the fountain, and humans will love the chance to hear the Basilica bells chime.



Wherever you choose to go to experience these all-too-fleeting flowers, I hope you and your dogs enjoy them!

The Elephant in the Room

Submitted by: Shannon Hall

Capital was founded as an AKC obedience club; for many years, Capital has also stretched to accommodate new dog sports as possible. The reason for that is two-fold: both to support the interests of our membership and also to secure new members for the club.

This splitting of focus across dog sports leads to contention for ring

time in the building. Practicalities being what they are, Capital also must pay the bills, and teaching lower level obedience and agility classes covers the largest portion of our annual expenses, with membership fees covering a smaller portion and event fees bringing in the remainder of the club's income. This is the Elephant in the Room: who gets space when?

There are a number of different ways to allocate space. Pre-COVID, the strong prevailing norm was to respect prior claim. In other words, a long-standing class or training group was unlikely to lose their slot, even if it was, fiscally speaking, a poor use of ring time. Unlikely does not mean never though. There was precedent to take ring space back from a class or group not serving many members or making money for the club. Back in the day as TD I made a few of those hard decisions myself.

That changed when COVID caused the club to shut down, and then when, taking cautious steps to open back up, CDTC went to one activity at a time in the building, with only instructors not as worried about health risks teaching. I suspect this was the biggest change since we moved from Kensington Armory to our current facility, which predates my tenure at the club. As we start to return to a more historically "normal" posture, most of the traditional obedience classes are resuming their old day/time slots as there are students in need. This is a good thing in several ways but again puts pressure on ring space. It also might not be the most optimal way to arrange our classes.

I don't know that I have the right answers, or really any answers, but I do hear the pain, and feel it myself, when my own preferred activities aren't at the right time for me or aren't available at all. I also feel it when I am thinking not as an individual with preferences but as President of this club about making the right fiscal decisions to best position us for the future, and to more fully serve our membership.

Crazy talk warning! These are my own day dreams, and in no way do they represent any kind of official position! Got it? Okay then! Here is my pie in the sky Bright Shiny Future: CDTC is in a facility large enough to host separate spaces for obedience and other dog activities, and for agility and other dog sports. We offer plenty of lower level classes and non-obedience public facing classes to pay most of the bills and engage future possible members, but have plenty of competition level classes in obedience, agility, and other interest areas for our membership. Members are willing to teach, assist, coordinate and in other ways volunteer their time, and are also aware that the price of such a flexible facility means paying at least some price for some or all of their own classes. Each core activity has their own day or set of days (or major blocks of

time) to schedule their classes and groups, and has accepted responsibility for some portion of funding the club as their own, which can be fulfilled by pricing their classes appropriately, or by providing instructors and ring time for public-facing classes.

In the meantime, we make do with what we have. We will be in this facility likely for at least a few more years, and face rents increasing 3% every year on top of the increase we just took with the new lease. We are doing an excellent job providing money making classes and a reasonable job controlling spending, so we are fine for this coming year and the next few beyond as long as we keep the good work up. In fact, we look likely to build up something of a buffer against big expenses like replacing the A/C (a possibility as it is old and not on great shape) or, if we get lucky and find a better facility, moving costs.

Please prepare for some proposals from the Board to move to more of a cost-sharing approach for classes for members, along the lines with a business strategy developed in 2016 when we were in poor financial shape and needed to turn the club around. While we did so by other means and have been thriving, adopting some of those recommendations helps tremendously to “future proof” the club and keeps us healthy.

I know the tension exists and feel it myself. My gratitude to those who remain courteous despite challenging circumstances. I beg that we all extend both courtesy and also generosity of spirit to each other.

Questions or suggestions? Please direct them to me at CDTCPrez@gmail.com

Luck O' The Irish...Breeds

Inspiration from: [A Celebration of 8 Irish Dog Breeds](#)

Each year, March 17th brings a celebration of Saint Patrick's Day; a chance to celebrate and break out the green food dye and itchy wool sweaters! For dog lovers, it's a great chance to celebrate the eight AKC recognized native Irish breeds.



The Irish Wolfhound is the largest of the eight breeds native to Ireland. With the standard calling for males to weight a minimum of 120 pounds, these gentle giants are the largest in the hound group. Known for their social nature and docile temperaments, Irish Wolfhounds have remained well loved through their hundreds of years of existence.



Revered for their stunning deep red coats, Irish Setters are a family favorite. Belonging to the Sporting Group, Irish Setters are gundogs with a lot of energy. Irish hunters bred these dogs to cover the flat and expansive grounds of the Irish Country side. These visually

stunning dogs capture the hearts of all they meet; there's even been an Irish Setter in the White House, owned by President Nixon.



Pre-dating its fully red relative above, the Red and White Setter has been tearing across the Irish countryside since at least the 1600s. This stunning setter, also a member of the Sporting Group, nearly went extinct a hundred years ago, before enthusiasts revived the breed. These active dogs retain much of their ancestors' athleticism, as well as their sweet nature.



The Irish Terrier, nicknamed the Daredevil of the Emerald Isle, is known for packing a ton of personality into their medium sized frame. These versatile little terriers are loved across Ireland, working as all purpose farm dogs, content to complete a plethora of tasks from ratting to guarding to family companion.



Glen of Imaal Terriers, and their wiry, double coats, come from the tough terrain of County Wicklow. These stout dogs are known for their bowed from legs and tenacious personalities. Though they are smaller in stature, Glen of Imaal Terrier's are still a working breed that prefers to have a job.



The Kerry Blue Terrier earned its name from County Kerry, Ireland, as well as its signature blue coat. Used as farm dogs and watch dogs, these terriers have even been known to retrieve. Their adaptability over the years has allowed them to succeed in the real world, as well as the show ring. A Kerry Blue Terrier named Mick took home Best in Show at the AKC National Championship, the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, and the Crufts Dog Show in the early 2000s.



A lesser known Irish breed, the Irish Water Spaniel is the tallest AKC recognized spaniel. Their popularity has risen in recent years, likely due to their low shedding coat. Sometimes referred to as the "Rat Tail

Spaniel" because of the way their tail fur tapers, this breed is built to swim. After a long day in the field, this spaniel is content to curl up with their family.



The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier has an extra special tie to St. Patrick's day, making their Irish Kennel Club Championship debut on March 17, 1937. Described by the AKC as friendly, happy, and deeply-devoted, this silky soft terrier has remained in the top 100 most popular AKC breeds for years. Wheatens are known for their typical terrier intelligence, as well as their steady workable temperament.

This March, let us show an extra bit of appreciation for these incredible Irish breeds!

Trick Dog Triumph



Each year, for the last four years, the AKC has hosted a Trick Dog Competition open to dogs holding the Elite Performer Trick Dog title. Held virtually, over 150 performers submitted their entries to the panel of judges. The contestants are expected to perform a series of complex and simple tricks, strung together in an intricate routine. The result is a great display of teamwork, with handler and dog working together to set the scene.

For 2022, Muriel McMullen and her Australian Terrier, Maddie from Altoona, WI, took the top spot. Maddie put on an amazing "Dogwarts School of Witchcraft" themed show; take a look at that [here](#).

Maddie's willingness to please her owner, combined with some hard work, and clearly creative set design, makes for a great watch. In order to obtain an Elite Performer Trick Dog title, handlers must prepare a story, demonstrated through tricks. Prior to COVID, it was required to "take this show on the road" and perform in front of a crowd. That requirement has since been waived. Trick training is a great way to build upon the relationship between handler and dog. An added bonus, all trick dog levels allow for food and praise to be used as reinforcers.

Applications for 2023 are not yet open, which leaves plenty of time to practice. Perhaps for 2023, one of Capital Dog Training Club's very own could snag the crown!

Braggs

Theresa Warner writes:

Theresa Warner's LH Dachshund, Maddie, earned her NACSW L1C Container Title on January 21 in New Windsor, MD. Way to go Maddie!



Mary Carson writes:

FUTURE UTILITY DOG

Arwen Cook, Amy's new 4-month old miniature wire-coated Dachshund, tries her hand--er, nose--at scent articles.

Photo credit Mary Carson



Nan Marks writes:

Jilly Joy and I would like to brag about her High in Trial in regular Obedience at the Mason Dixon Collie Club show as well as her being on the invite list for AKC Rally Nationals in Intermediate.



Delegate's Corner

By Joyce Dandridge

As we begin the year, our club has not selected an AKC Juniors Coordinator. We had requested a volunteer last year. This person should be a person interested in working with juniors (9-18) and parents in Companion Events like Obedience, Agility, Rally, etc. We could form a committee to develop goals and objectives that fit with the AKC goals and our club's objectives. If anyone is interested in

further pursuing the idea and would like to discuss, please contact me. This topic should also be placed on the next Club Board and General Meeting agendas.

As mentioned in the general club meeting, the AKC Board is entertaining the idea of allowing the ¾ jump height for all breeds in Obedience. A club member has asked me to see if the Board would consider an option clause if they pass this allowance. I will keep you informed. I suggest you also read the AKC Board minutes in March for updates.

Courses are currently being developed for people interested in stewarding for clubs. The courses are free and will teach people how to steward for Conformation and/or Obedience. Upon completion of the courses, one will receive AKC certification to steward anywhere for any club. It is hoped that this will give clubs more trained stewards for their events. Lack of trained stewards is a major problem in Conformation and Obedience. Clubs have various offers including paid fees for stewards who volunteer. This AKC approval allows you to work anywhere in the country as a steward.

Available Classes

[Class List and Registration](#)

Upcoming Classes/Tests/Trials

CGC Testing

CGC testing is scheduled for May 4, Aug. 5, and Nov. 4

Links to register: [May](#), [Aug](#), [Nov](#)

Classes

Register for all classes [here](#).

Puppy Kindergarten begins Thursday, April 6.

Family Dog 1 classes start Wednesday, April 5 at 2pm and Tuesday, May 9 at 7pm.

Family Dog 2/CGC starts Tuesday, May 9 at 6pm.

Heeling, Fronts, and Finishes
begins Monday, June 5.

Beginning Conformation starts Saturday, March 4.

Continuing Scent Work
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

Rally Competition Class has space available.

[Beginning and Intermediate Flyball](#) classes meet
Saturday evenings
contact [Dona Dwyer](#)

Permission is required to register for Beginner Novice, Novice,
Open, and Utility Obedience classes
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

Fill out the **[Agility Waitlist Questionnaire](#)** to get on the wait
list for the next available class.

Email [Training Secretary](#) with questions.

Training Groups

Rally Training Group meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays
each month at 1pm.

Conformation Group meets Saturdays and Thursday evenings.
Non-members pre-register and pay for dates you plan to attend
[here](#).

Thursday Open/Utility Training Group (Goldstein @
12:30pm). Contact [Burton](#).

Friday Utility Training Group (Cleverdon @ 1:00pm). Contact
[Donna](#).

For information about **Freestyle Training Group**
Contact [Training Secretary](#)

Thinking of joining CDTC as a Member?

Active membership in the Capital Dog Training Club (CDTC) is
available to an individual who:

- has completed no less than three (3) months as a training member
paying the prescribed fees/dues, and

- whose dog has passed a Proficiency Test as prescribed by the Club with a dog that she or he has trained **or** has obtained a qualifying score toward an AKC title in any “dog companion sport” trial.

Active membership includes the right to attend meetings, vote, access to the Members Only section of CDTC’s website, access to seminars, events, announcements of the Club, the right to hold an elective office in the Club, and all other privileges and benefits of the Club (including 2 free classes per quarter). Visit cdtc.org/membership.

Email [Training Secretary](#) with questions.

Next Membership Meeting

March 14th, at 8:00pm



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