



The Dog Scout Scoop

(little bits of news we've picked up)

May/June 2013

Volume 17, Issue 3

PUBLISHED FOR DSA'S RESPONSIBLE, DOG-LOVING MEMBERS AND FOR THE FRIENDS OF DOGS EVERYWHERE Dog Scouts of America PO Box 158, Harrison, OH 45030

Reminder!!!!

Don't forget to make plans to attend the Spring Outing on the weekend of May 17-18-19. Contact Lonnie to reserve your spot. The weather is FINALLY warming up here, and the snow is ALMOST gone...

And don't forget the Spring Clean Up! There is LOTS of spring cleaning to catch up on (for the rest of the nation, spring started last month!). We could sure use some help up here getting the camp spiffed up for the summer season. Remember, your lodging is FREE, and food is supplied, if you come prepared to work! Lodging is arranged on a first come, first served basis, so call right away with your lodging needs! Contact Lonnie (989) 389-2000 dogscoutcamp@gmail.com.

There will be a free "Spring Clean Up" patch for the first 5 people who sign up! Others can purchase them for \$3.00. These two fun excuses to come to camp will be going on before the Leadership Retreat, so maybe you can make arrangements to come up early and take in more than one adventure! See the info below from the last newsletter.



The DSA Spring Outing will take place on the weekend of May 18-19, 2013 at the Dog Scout Camp in Saint Helen, Michigan. We will have a spring egg hunt, some hikes and the usual spring fun. Please contact Lonnie Olson (989)389-2000 (dogscoutcamp@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. This is free for members. Regular lodging rates apply.



Following the Spring retreat is the Spring Clean-UP week. This will take place on Monday through Thursday, May 20th through 23rd. You can attend as many or as few days as you like. If you help with the work around camp, your lodging is free! Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first served basis. Call Lonnie (989) 389-2000 or email dogscoutcamp@gmail.com to reserve your spot. Following the spring clean-up is the Leadership retreat. If you can get the time off, you could spend a few days at both (or all three). I hope to see you there! We have a lot of new projects going on at camp that we'll be needing help with.

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Please Respect Newsletter Deadlines!!!

Newsletter Submission – June 15th, 2013 for July/August 2013 Issue. Please respect the deadlines.

Peggy Zweber, Editor

DSA website is all new and improved!! Check it out! www.DogScouts.org

Is Your Membership Expired? If you don't know your DSA membership expiration date, go to: <http://dogscouts.org/join-dsa/> Under "Is Your Membership Current?" you can click on by: name, state or troop to find your membership status.

Don't Forget Our On-Line Store – Go To Our Website and Just "Click" on Store to Order!!!

From Our Webmaster:

Hello everyone, and THANK YOU for participating in our Member Survey regarding the Dogs/Badges pages of our site. The response was wonderful, and many good suggestions were included. Some things we may not YET be able to do, but I'll work on getting this set up with a few of the most requested options, and then I can add and change things from there.

The top 3 improvements/ideas that WILL be included are: The greatest request (over 50%) was to be able to search for a DOG and get the dog with its related badges and dates they were earned. You will be able to search by:

- Dog name - find dog based on first &/or last name
- Last name only - get all dogs belonging to a specific owner last name
- Member number - if you know the DSA member number, you can use that to find the dog
- Troop number - get a list of all dogs in a specified troop

The second most popular option was an OPEN search form, with several options to choose from (one of MY favorites!) - this will actually be on a separate page linked to the dog search page, so it is there IF you want it, but does not take up the whole main search page. We will definitely be including specific search fields to make TROOP reporting easier for you!

Things requested that will be available from the OPEN search page: a search by BADGE to see the dogs that have earned it, and when

- a search by BADGE DATE - get all dogs who earned on a specified date (can also be broken down by badge)
- a search by BADGE CATEGORY - get all the badges earned in a specific category (such as obedience or trail)
- search for EVALUATORS based on badge, troop, or state

Other requests received, but temporarily put on hold include:

- Adding one photo of each dog, maybe when it got is Dog Scout title (or any good photo owner wants to share)
- Adding the date the DOG joined DSA, so members can share congrats on membership anniversaries! (This can maybe be done in a new blog that is being considered)

One idea that I LOVED, but may not be able to incorporate is the "Rainbow Love" Search -- a search for member dogs who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. After talking with the team here, I understand that the data is not really convenient, and some of the older records they had were lost during file transfers/upgrades and/or due to file glitches.

It would take a monumental effort to gather, compile and verify all of this data again. HOWEVER... that is not to say it can't happen! Remember -- we are all volunteers here, so things take time. IF someone was to volunteer to take on this time consuming project and see how far you can get.... I think that would be just AWESOME! Keep in mind that this would still only list the dogs belonging to people with active DSA membership.

Well, I hope I remembered everyone - there were so many excellent ideas! I truly appreciate your help in planning this to be most helpful to YOU - our wonderful members :) I am still coding it, but you will know as soon as it is ready to "go live"!

Sending Furry 4-Footed Hugs to everyone from sunny FL!

Kim Hovey, Comm Mgr/Asst Webmaster

Here's the newest troop info:

Troop #: 225
State: Texas
Area Served: Tyler, Texas Smith County, Texas
Troop Leader: Natalie Fletcher
Email: pen3cows@gmail.com

Thank you,
Robyn Porter

DSA Camp has Herding Ducks! By Lonnie Olson

Camp is becoming a petting zoo... Too bad we couldn't figure out how to make some money with this... In March, I ordered some Indian Runner Ducks to be used this summer for the Herding Badge at camp. I hadn't heard back, and the season was getting later, and I finally found out that the ducks had been ordered, but they wouldn't have a hatch date until April 15th (the date I am writing this). I worried that the ducks would be a little small for herding class with an April hatch date, so I decided to take home some of the plain old ducks they had at TSC. Here is a photo of Mystic, Lipstick and Dipstick in my bathtub at a few weeks of age.



Meanwhile, I tried to find an alternate supplier for Indian Runners. I looked up photos of baby Indian Runners online, and was lucky enough to find a web page for a family that raises nothing but fawn and white Indian Runner ducks. They had photos of the ducks at all ages. SURPRISE! The ducks that I grudgingly "settled for" at the store actually WERE Indian Runners! So I called the store back, cancelled the ducks on order, and said that I'd take all of the rest of the ones they had. By then, of course they had been picked over, and there weren't any more with the striking markings like Lipstick, Mystic and Dipstick had, but I didn't care. At least they were older.

When I went to get them, they weren't in the shopping part of the

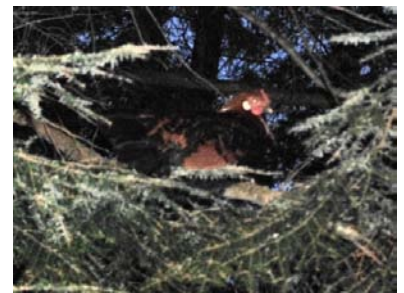
store. They had moved them back, because they had gotten older, and they weren't cute little ducklings any more, and they needed more space. There were also three Pekin ducks that were much older than the new babies (already sprouting feathers and turning white), and the manager threw those in for free, plus he gave me a "baker's dozen" of the Runner ducklings for the price of 12. I came home with 16 more ducklings. And the good news is that they were already a few weeks old.



Well, it was obvious that I wasn't going to be keeping all of these in my bathtub, so I made a small pen for them in the garage. Pretty soon, they were getting that very messy and sopping wet, so I moved them to the barn. They have a lot more room in there, and like it a lot. Here is a picture of the babies, now a month and a half old. The drab yellow ones are now starting to feather in with darker markings. The Pekins are twice the size of the Runners, and are a week or so older.



Then, in April, a friend rescued two miniature horses and gave them to Joe. So the herd-guarding donkey, Reuben, now has a couple of buddies his own size to pal around with. This is great news for the Dog and Pony Club! Campers at the summer camps have the opportunity to spend some time training a different species of animal (Equine), to become better trainers. It's sort of like the idea of having a chicken camp, so that you can become a better dog trainer. Speaking of which, **DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US FOR THE TERRY RYAN CHICKEN CAMP IN AUGUST!** To the left is a photo of our Pekin ducks, and my crazy chicken. The chickens have started roosting in the trees, now that we have been having warmer (35 degree) nights. To the right is my personal chicken, "Little." She is some sort of exotic bird that the chicken company threw in for free. She's about



9 feet up in the Hemlock tree. The other photo is of Dweezle and Moon Unit, Joe's two "pygmy ponies" (miniature horses). All we need now is a llama and some goats, and we'll have a petting zoo!

One thing's for sure, we won't be at any loss for animals to use for the "Leave it with an animal" exercise in the Dog Scout class!

Summer camp has lots of cool stuff in store this year, so be sure to sign up, so you can meet the whole menagerie! There are still some openings left!

Photo at Right: Moon Unit in the foreground and Dweezle in the background. I don't know what kind of horses they're supposed to be. They look a little like pint-sized Hafflingers (Quarter-lingers?)...





Chicken Camp 101

Presented by Terry Ryan

Sat/Sun August 24 & 25, 2013
@ Dog Scout Camp, St. Helen, MI



What will I learn?

Exercises include observing and graphing (ethogram) chicken behavior. We'll explore how chickens acquire, store and process information. We'll practice mechanical skills with special attention to timing and eye-hand coordination. Lessons include systematic desensitization, capturing a behavior, shaping a behavior and the use of targets. We'll work on a three or four-component discrimination and conduct extinction trials.

Why travel to Dog Scout Camp?

Make this seminar part of a mini-vacation! You will be away from it all in Northern Michigan. This venue is unique among Chicken Camp hosting facilities in that you can stay onsite with three lodging options: campsite, lodge or private cabin, bring your dogs, and enjoy miles of trails, water sports, agility equipment, play yards and other camp amenities including access to our kitchen to prepare your own food.

Bonus Offer: Free Micro-Camp (\$200 value). Register for Chicken Camp and get **free admission to Dog Scout Micro-Camp on Friday, August 23.** During this full day of activities you'll learn about our organization and what it can do for you and your dog (and clients!) while you participate in exciting activities including shaping games, hikes, crafts, and campfires.

Why chickens?

The process is "an adventure and a revelation," according to Legacy Canine Behavior and Training, where Terry Ryan serves as president. "Training a chicken is a stretch and a fantastic boost to your mechanical skills. Chickens are faster than the average dog so your timing and coordination skills are quickly improved. Dog trainers are amazed at how much they learn from their work with chickens!"

Chicken Camp: Sat/Sun August 24&25

Free Friday Add-ON: Micro-Camp

Bring your dog for a mini-vacation!

Cost: \$350 participant/\$200 auditor, includes light breakfast and lunch. Onsite lodging extra, supply limited, (especially for private cabins).

Earlybird pricing (before 3/1/13):

\$300 participant/\$150 auditor

Time: 9A-5P each day

Information and registration



<http://dsachickencamp.eventbrite.com>

Dog Scouts of America is a 501c(3) charitable organization that exists to improve the lives of dogs, their owners, and society through humane education, positive training, and community involvement. Visit us at dogscouts.org

Something new at Maple Valley Conservatory

Our camp caretaker, Joe, discovered liquid gold on our property this year... He started thinking about making maple syrup, so Fred and I helped him to procure the equipment he needed: An Evaporator, a couple of cooking vats, some storage containers, spiles, collection containers, and wood to burn in the evaporator. In March, he started making syrup.



This is a labor of love. Boiling down 40 gallons of sap (the clear liquid that comes from the maple tree), to make less than one gallon of syrup on a small evaporator takes a lot of man-hours. Joe would tend his syrup in the sugar shack until 6:00 in the morning, staying up all night. It's no wonder this stuff is so expensive to buy.

First, Joe puts a tap, or "spile" into each maple tree, then attaches a bucket to collect the sap. When the syrup is running well, he has to empty the buckets every few hours! He filters the sap into the boiler pan, and cooks the syrup until it boils down quite a bit, adding more filtered sap as the batch cooks down. When it reaches a certain temperature and consistency, he takes it off the fire and brings it inside to finish cooking on the stove. When it reaches the exact temperature, he filters it again and puts it into bottles. This is a process that depends heavily on the weather. There are only a few weeks during the year when you can harvest the sap to make the syrup. It has to be during the time of year when the temperature starts

to warm during the day, but goes back to freezing at night.



We ordered some bottles and labels and started packaging up the syrup. We gave some of our first batch to friends and neighbors. Everyone agreed it was delicious! I told Joe that he should hang out a shingle and let people know he has syrup for sale, so that he could recuperate some of the hundreds of dollars he has invested in the equipment (not to mention the hundreds of man-hours). Joe created some maple syrup sugar, maple syrup candy, and maple syrup fudge. Oh, MAN! Is that stuff good! He even started putting in in everything: meat, cereal, fruit dishes, coffee and tea. I thought I had died and gone to heaven the day he made French toast for me, from his farm fresh eggs, and his home made pure maple syrup!

If you would like to reserve a bottle of Joe's syrup, please contact Lonnie at the Dog Scout Camp. It would be a little expensive to ship, but he'll put your name on a bottle and have it for you when you come to camp (989) 389-2000 dogscoutcamp@gmail.com. He also plans to put a few bottles in the DSA auctions.

Troop #130 – Michigan (Battle Creek, Marshall)

This was the first year the Zippity Do Dawgs Easter Egg Hunt was not at a park. One of the members graciously allowed the group to use their 25 acres of wooded land and their large barn (that the group has been holding training sessions in all winter) to host the event. Even though it was raining and hailing the morning of the event, in the afternoon the sun came out and it was a beautiful day! The hardy egg hunters found over 300 eggs full of homemade treats from Pumpkin Dog Biscuits, Banana Oatmeal Pizzas, Doggie Deli Muffins, Tuna Treats, Cheese Cookies, Carrot and Hazelnut Waffle Bites and many more delightful doggie mouthwatering treats. The 'young chicks' of the group picked up egg hunting quickly and by the end all the dogs were having a wonderful time. Most of the 'young chicks' beat the 'old hens' in the number of eggs they collected! Each participant went home with a large bag of treats! Between the two egg hunts there was a potluck with cookout and doggie games with prizes! Special thanks goes to Sue and Tim for use of their barn and wooded trails and to Tim and Jeremy for hiding the eggs so well we had two fun hunts to try to find all of them.

Twice a month on Tuesdays the group meets at Sue's barn to work on their dog scout patch training and the badge of the quarter. Last quarter the troop worked on the "Art of Shaping (Painting)" badge and painted canvases for Christmas presents. This quarter the troop is working on the "Manners" badge with go to mat, settle, stand, waiting before exiting a door, off and targeting.

Next quarter the troop plans to work on their letter boxing badge with each member planning at least one event. Since the group has members from Jackson to Kalamazoo this gives each member a chance to plan an event that is close to home for them and an excuse to explore other parks in the area.

Brenda Katz, API AIS



Photo left: Marilyn and Hailey Rhodes with Diva, Kaleena VanLoo with Gryphon and Sammy, Lori Butler with Sophie, Sue Snyder with Cloe and Lexi, Brenda Katz with Gracie and Amy Braat with Burrito



Photo right: Lexi and Cloe and their owner, Sue Snyder. Cloe gets an egg.

Photo left: Gryphon and owner Kaleena VanLoo. Gryphon gives the egg nicely.



Photo right: Lori Butler and Sophie were guests for the day.. she says she is going to join DSA they had so much fun!





Diva and Hailey Rhodes have found another one!



Gracie Katz is sure there is an egg somewhere around here



Amy Braat with Burrito spotting an egg in the tree.



Cloe Snyder has her eye on the prize.



Photo left is Cloe Snyder.

Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 – Mount Desert Island, Maine

Downeast Dog Scouts Suggest “Grab your Hat and Read with the Cat”

The Downeast Dog Scouts encourage children to read to their dogs in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Dogs are great listeners! Their presence creates an inviting and motivating environment that is relaxed, comfortable, nonjudgmental, empowering and fun! The relationship between children and dogs is magical when children snuggle with a dog to read their favorite books. With Dr. Seuss's March 2nd birthday falling on a Saturday this year, the official National Education Association's Read Across America Day will be celebrated Friday, March 1, to enable schools across the nation to participate in the reading fun. Photo right - Cat in the Hat Cirra - Read Across America Day



Read Across America Day is an annual reading motivation and awareness event that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on the March 2nd birthday of beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss. For 2013, *The Cat in the Hat* is back with the National Education Association's theme, "Grab your Hat and Read with the Cat." All across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books, and you can too!

This year, Renaissance Dental teams up with Read Across America to encourage children to pick up a book and a toothbrush. They are asking children and their parents to brush for two minutes, two times per day plus read for 20 minutes each day. That's a daily total of 24 minutes focused on developing good oral health and reading skills. American students miss 51 million hours of school every year because of oral health problems. Students who are absent miss critical instruction time especially in early grades where reading skills are the building blocks of future learning.

Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who spend more time reading for fun on their own have higher reading scores. Dogs can help children to read for fun! Since 2008, Downeast Dog Scouts Troop members and their listening dogs have provided over 1600 hours of volunteer community service listening to children read at local libraries and schools. Children Reading to Dogs Programs increase children's reading skills, confidence and self-esteem. Children that have special canine relationships also develop empathy for dogs and others. The reading sessions create a love of reading and lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Downeast Dog Scouts Sponsor 2013 Idita-Read Teams

With support from the Hattie A. and Freddie C. Lynam Trust, the Downeast Dog Scouts are sponsoring Idita-Read Teams at the Ashley Bryan School on Islesford, Blue Hill Library, Frenchboro School, Northeast Harbor Library and the Tremont School. The Idita-Read is a Read A Route reading incentive event for school age readers organized by WorldWide IDEA. The Downeast Dog Scouts troop dogs are serving as Team Mascots, encouraging their reading teams along the way! This year's mascots are: Alaskan Malamute - Bruno, Golden Retrievers - Raya and Rebel, Great Pyrenees - Cirra, Italian Greyhounds - Bri and Gracie, Labrador Retrievers - Rissa, Jill and Lily.



Mirroring [Alaska's biggest annual sled dog race](#), the Idita-Readers rely on reading minutes to travel the distance along the Iditarod trail from Anchorage to Nome. Participants can read anything they desire to read and then will log their reading minutes. One minute of reading equals one mile on the [Iditarod](#) trail.

Based on the 2013 Iditarod Race Schedule, readers can take up to 52 days to complete the race from March 2nd - April 22nd. The 2013 Idita-Read total reading goal is 998 minutes per reader. This equates to reading 133 minutes a week with a daily reading goal of about 20 minutes. **Educators will provide books and resources encouraging the readers to learn more about the Iditarod and mushing, geography, mapping, climate, science and technology, social studies and art.** Each participant will **track their trail progress on maps with checkpoints and learn along the way!**

In an assembly last Friday morning, the Tremont School Idita-Readers, school staff and Downeast Dog Scouts kicked off the Idita-Read for 2013. School Librarian Crystal Dow began the assembly celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss on Read Across America Day, then quickly transformed into a musher for the Idita-Read Kickoff. What a great combination for reading! Children from the Red, Blue, Green and Purple teams met their Dog Scout Mascots and walked through an arch of snowshoes to start the reading race. During the 2012 Idita-Read Tremont School students logged 103,216 minutes or 1,720 hours of reading.

Also on Friday morning, Idita-Read teams comprised of fourth and fifth graders from Mount Desert Elementary School kicked off the Idita-Read in the Northeast Harbor Library's children's room. Children's Librarian Eileen MacLean is coordinating the project at the library with the elementary school educators. Three classes are participating this year: Ms. Gray's green team - The Juggernauts, Ms. Taylor's purple team- The Purple Paws and Ms. Tripp's red team - The Red Rangers. The Idita-Readers were all smiles as they adored their team mascots and received a book to get them started on the reading race.

The Downeast Dog Scouts are sponsoring an Idita-Read Team again this year at the Blue Hill Library. Children's Librarian Pat Horton and Pier Carros of the Downeast Dog Scouts are coordinating the library's Blue Hill Extreme Readers team.

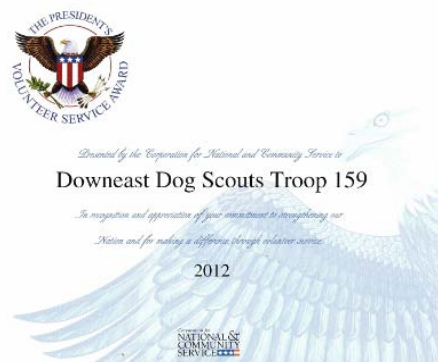
This year, the outer island schools on Islesford and Frenchboro are also participating in the Idita-Read. Educators Donna Isaacs and Lauren Simmons are organizing the Ashley Bryan School Musers on Islesford. Frenchboro educator, Ashley MacCaslin will be coordinating the Idita-Read Project at the school on Frenchboro. All of the students are quite excited about reading their way from Anchorage to Nome.

Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 is an affiliate of the Dog Scouts of America in Hancock County, Maine that promotes responsible dog ownership, bringing people and dogs together to learn, socialize and help in the community. Reading is the cornerstone of all learning and many of the dogs in the troop are Reading Education Assistance Dogs. The Idita-Read is a fantastic project for a group that loves dogs, the outdoors and the promotion of positive canine relationships through education and reading with children.

"Top Dog" Dog Scouts of America Troop 159 Receives Silver President's Volunteer Service Award

Once again the Downeast Dog Scouts have earned the Silver President's Volunteer Service Award for the year 2012! The Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 is a 501c3 non-profit subgroup of the Dog Scouts of America that was established in September 2007 as an all-volunteer affiliate of the Dog Scouts of America. It is the first Dog Scouts of America troop in Maine, serving Hancock County. **As a group, troop members gave 650 hours of service to their communities. Troop members Pier Carros and Denise Houseknecht earned individual Bronze President's Volunteer Service Awards for completion of more than 100 hours of volunteer service. Troop leader, Robyn Douglas, also was awarded the Silver President's Volunteer Service Award for completion of 336 hours of volunteer service.**

Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 members and their dogs provided a total of 650 hours of service in activities such as: therapy dog visits, Children Reading to Dogs Programs, school visits, community educational activities, walkathons, and clean up days. Troop members visited as representatives of their respective therapy organizations at Mount Desert Island Hospital, Birch Bay Retirement Village, Tremont School, Northeast Harbor Library, Camp Beech Cliff, Blue Hill Library, Brooksville Public Library and Swans Island Library. Children Reading to Dogs Programs increase literacy skills and boost the self esteem of young readers. Imagine how relaxing and fun it is to cozy up to a warm and welcoming dog that loves to hear stories! Visiting therapy dogs also help to relieve stress, improve health and recovery from illness. Young and old alike have benefitted from the dogs' endeavors!



In 2012 the Downeast Dog Scouts sponsored the Idita-Read program at the Tremont School and the Blue Hill Library. The incentive reading program was a tremendous success from all accounts by readers, parents, teachers and librarians. Children from the Blue Hill Library and Tremont School logged a total of 105,788 reading minutes or 1,763 hours of reading!

The Idita-Read is an incentive reading project for school age readers offered through the nonprofit World Wide Idea's Read-A-Route Program. Mirroring Alaska's biggest annual sled dog race, the Idita-Readers relied on reading minutes to travel the distance along the Iditarod trail from Anchorage to Nome.

Reading is the cornerstone of all learning and many of the dogs in the troop are Reading Education Assistance Dogs. The Idita-Read is a fantastic project for a group that loves dogs, the outdoors and the promotion of positive canine relationships through education and reading with children.

Community service is a fundamental part of the Downeast Dog Scouts mission. In 2012, the Downeast Dog Scouts participated in several walkathons: Idita-Walk, Dog Scouts of America Hike-A-Thon, Bark for Life Hancock County, Paws On Parade and Walk for Birch Bay Village. Troop member Pam Bourque and her dog Jillian provided reading programs at the Bangor Discovery Museum and an Early Childhood Education class at the College of the Atlantic. Pam is also a member of the Raising Readers Book Selection Committee. Raising Readers provides new books to Family Practice and Pediatric medical providers in Maine for preschool children at well child visits. Troop members also held an education program about Reading Education Assistance Dogs for interested community members.

During the 2012 holidays, the Downeast Dog Scouts again distributed bags of dog treats through local banks as a festive thank you to dog owners that include their dogs in their daily lives. The Downeast Dog Scouts participated in Take Pride in Acadia Day, when troop members clean up after **less responsible dog owners at Little Long Pond in Seal Harbor, Maine.**

For the fifth year, the Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 has been recognized as a "Top Dog Troop" for 2012 by the Dog Scouts of America. The Dog Scouts of America Troop Recognition Program rewards troops for being active and helping in their community. The Dog Scouts of America is a national 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to educating people about responsible dog ownership, the important role of the human/canine bond and to challenge people and dogs to learn how to better serve each other. All troops work toward the goals and mission of the Dog Scouts of America while focusing on the needs and interests of each local community. Information about the Dog Scouts of America is available at www.dogscouts.org

The Downeast Dog Scouts Troop 159 offers a local membership program for people who advocate responsible dog ownership and enjoy participating in dog centered activities. Troop members and their dogs learn new skills working toward the Dog Scouts of America merit badges. The Downeast Dog Scouts Troop promotes the positive treatment of animals, advocating only the most modern behavioral approaches to training. Promotion of responsible dog ownership and involvement in the community lies at the heart of this group. Maine is fortunate to have a thriving dog community in which dogs are largely involved in the lives of their people and the troop dogs are fine examples of the value that pets can have for families and the community at large.

Downeast Dog Scouts Monthly Walks

Pier Carros has organized monthly walks for the Downeast Dog Scouts and community members in Hancock County Maine. She and member Nancy Morrison led walks in March and April at Great Pond Mountain Wildlands. Once on top of Great Pond Mountain, views include the Penobscot Narrows bridge, Alamoosook Lake, the bay and beyond.



Photo right - March Walk Downeast Dog Scouts - Great Pond Mountain Wildlands - East Orland, Maine

Dog Scout Cirra and Robyn Douglas Earn Therapy Dogs International Active Outstanding Volunteer Title (TDIAOV)



Robyn Douglas and her Great Pyrenees, Cirra (Glimmer's Spirit of Acadia) have earned their Therapy Dogs International Active Outstanding Volunteer Title (TDIAOV). Therapy Dogs International, Inc. awards this title in recognition of the dog's tireless determination to visit those in need of their unconditional love and the active volunteers who share these great dogs for the benefit of others. In addition to 100 Tail Waggin' Tutor reading visits, Robyn and Cirra have enjoyed another 150 Children Reading to Cirra reading dog visits. Currently, Cirra listens to students read from Mount Desert Elementary School on Tuesday mornings and local children on Thursday afternoons at the Northeast Harbor Library. Last summer, campers read to Cirra at Camp Beech Cliff one afternoon a week. Cirra has visited the Tremont School, Swan's Island Library and Blue Hill Library. In addition, Cirra and Denise Houseknecht visit residents at Birch Bay Retirement Village in Bar Harbor twice a month. At eight years of age Cirra enjoys her daily walks, learning new things and is a member of the Downeast Dog Scouts.

Robyn Douglas



Troop 161 - Carlisle/Central PA

On February 16, Troop 161 members gathered at Fieldwood Dog Training Center and updated the Troop's scrapbook and DSA bulletin board with photos from recent events. The scrapbook is a nice way to show others the types of Troop activities we do and how we've grown over the years since beginning in 2007. We also have a bulletin board at Fieldwood which serves as a forum for Troop news and announcements, like upcoming events and community service projects.

On February 24, a six-member team from Troop 161 participated in the 10th Annual Strikes for Strays bowl-a-thon which benefits Furry Friends Network (FFN), a non-profit, all-volunteer animal adoption organization based in central Pennsylvania. An afternoon of fun, food, bowling and great prizes resulted in raising a record-breaking total of \$28,888 to help cover costs associated with the care of animals in FFN's foster program. Troop 161's team raised more than \$1,000. Photo left – Strikes for Strays.



On March 9-10, Troop 161 once again participated in Pawsabilities, an annual event geared for dogs and the people who love them that benefits Susquehanna Service (SSD). A special part of Keystone Human Services, SSD trains and places service dogs and hearing dogs with men, women and children with disabilities to help them achieve greater independence. Photo left – Thelma at Pawsabilities.

The two-day event is packed full of activities for owners to try with their dogs. To name just a few, activities include canine Olympics, costume contests, and dock diving. Troop 161's Triathadog course allowed owners to introduce and test their dogs' skills in Rally, Agility and IMPROV. In addition to providing guided paws-on-learning

in Triathadog course, Troop 161 distributed educational materials on Dog Scouts of American, dog-bite prevention, how to properly greet a dog, and how to tell when a dog is anxious. The overwhelming interest in Dog Scouts, spurred us to host an Open House for potential new members.

Photo right – Kevin showing off his Dog Scout badges.



Troop 171 – Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Greetings, fellow Dog Scout friends! It has been a while since our last submission, but here are some highlights of how **Troop 171** has been keeping busy. Our proudest achievement in the last several months for **The Redfern Ramblers** is the success of our Salvation Army bell ringing effort on December 21. The grand total of money raised for that day was **\$712.26!** Of that grand total, our troop was responsible for raising at least **\$307**, plus other donations that were given between the time the first-shift kettle was picked up and ours was delivered! This is our highest total by far in the four years we have participated in this community service project! To show the impact of just our four-hour shift, our combined efforts raised enough money to provide a hot breakfast to 75 people for an entire week, OR to cover the entire 30-session cost of the "Bridging the Gap" intervention and prevention program for two students.

Bridging the Gap (BTG) is a life skills prevention and intervention program for school-aged youth. BTG is based on the premises that young people will make good decisions about their lives if they are given the help and support to do so by caring, responsible adult role models.

BTG covers a variety of topics aimed at building attendees' self-respect with hands-on, interactive small-group sessions. The BTG Program focuses on physical and emotional development, and offers participants an in-depth introduction to the vast and diverse community resources that are available in their community and how to access them successfully.

We would like to recognize the following Dog Scouts (and their humans) who served as bell ringers in 2012:

- Maida and Zeke with Paula and Rosa Marinak
- Emma with Theresa Ayer
- Julie with Betsy Howell
- Misty Rose with Marian Masi
- Baxter with Cheryl Daily
- Troop member Carol Varano also came without her dog Sophie to educate the public about Dog Scouts of America, and why the dogs were ringing bells. Cheers and thanks to all who participated in this wag-worthy endeavor!

In more recent tail-wagging news, in March we added a few more Pupcassos to our ranks as several dogs (some current Scouts and some future) completed the requirements for the Art of Shaping badge. In the months ahead, we are looking forward to lots of fun activities, including letterboxing, backpacking, agility, swimming and travel safety. Of course, we also have several new members who are eager to earn the Dog Scout badge. We hope you all enjoy and make the most of your spring and summer!

~Paula Marinak

Troop 177 – Indianapolis, Indiana

Troop #177 gathered for a hike in Ft. Harrison State Park on March 9. Snow covered the ground in the woods but in open areas the trails were only wet and soggy. Shawn Robertson and Angel, Amy Heard and Star, and Jim and Gail Wiseman with Zipper joined Robyn Porter and Hallie for the hike. The sun was shining and it was a great early spring break.



Photos left to right: Gail adjusts Zipper's pack while Greg watches
Shawn Robertson and Angel with Star and Amy Heard
Zipper, Hallie and Star pose on the trail

One of the requirements for Geocache Level III badge is to host a geocache event. Robyn Porter and Hallie hosted an April 6 event called "Going to the Dogs!". It was held in Ellenberger Park and cachers were encouraged to attend with their Geo-dogs or Canine-Cachers! Many attendees did bring their dogs, and some even had Travel Bugs attached to their collars. Robyn spotted four Travel Bugs just standing around talking at the event. And these attendees were a talkative bunch. Peggy Kraus and Casey helped staff the Troop #177 booth and attendees were interested to learn about Dog Scouts and trade caching stories from the trail. Robyn planted 5 new caches for the event and included a number of Travel Bugs in the goodie bags. If you aren't familiar with Geocaching, a familiar phrase is "Cache in, Trash out" to encourage cachers to pick up trash along the way. In that spirit, Robyn offered an award and a couple from Martinsville, Indiana won the "Best Piece of Trash" award!

The dogs enjoyed an Easter Egg hunt on April 13 during a chilly morning at Holliday Park. We had a surprise visitor with two King Charles Cavalier Spaniels join Jim and Gail Wiseman with Zipper joined Robyn Porter and Hallie. The intent wasn't to hide eggs in order to make it difficult and challenging for the dogs. The intent was to give the dogs lots of "wins" and get them in the mind-set of sniffing out the treats contained in the eggs. All had loads of fun!



Photos left to right: Greg and Gail Wiseman with Zipper
Hallie finds an Egg!
Beautiful Zipper and his basket

Peggy Kraus and Casey and Robyn Porter and Hallie perform pet therapy volunteer work through Paws and Think, an Indianapolis-based organization. They attended an April 15 study session sponsored by Paws and Think in preparation for taking the Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.) written exam.

Submitted by **Robyn Porter, Troop #177, Indianapolis IN**

Troop 183 – Central Florida

**Dog Scout Troop 183 Raises Money for Seminole County
Animal Services at the SCAS 10th Annual Pet Adopt-A-Thon**

On Saturday, March 9, 2013, Dog Scout Troop 183 participated in the 10th Annual Pet Adopt-A-Thon organized by Seminole County Animal Services. Our troop set up an informational booth with information on the organization in general as well as activities organized by our local troop. Everyone signing up for our quarterly newsletter received a goody bag, sponsored by Publix, containing biscuits from Louise's Pet Connection for their dogs and information on Dog Scouts and how to join our troop.



To raise money for Seminole County Animal Services, we asked people in attendance for a donation to see our dogs perform their tricks. The children enjoyed tossing the ball for Labrador Retriever, Kingston, to catch. Golden Retriever, Maya, impressed everyone by carrying a basket with Easter eggs, and everyone enjoyed All American Dog, Julie, as she jumped through a hoop. All American Dog, Loki, raised a smile on everybody's face when he played dead, and Boomer (also an All American Dog) said "thank you" with a woof to everyone who donated money. These are just some of the tricks our dogs executed at the event. Suffice it to say, THIS WAS A BIG HIT!! Furthermore, we held a raffle to raise money. The raffle prizes were generously donated by KONG Company, LLC for this purpose. We are proud to announce that altogether we were able to donate \$60 for Seminole County Animal Services to help with the care of the animals that come into their

custody.

At the event there were canine games, demonstrations, and training and behavior tips presented in the center ring. Our very own troop member Susan won the dachshund races with her All American Dog, Julie. Congratulations, Susan and Julie! Under the motto "Does your dog have what it takes to be a Dog Scout", Astrid and Karyn performed a mock demonstration of the Dog Scout Test, which highlighted the fact that as Dog Scout members we strive to be responsible dog owners.



The whole troop – dogs and their parents alike – worked very hard to make this a very successful fundraiser and information event.

Wendi Wilcox, Troop 183, Central Florida

Buddy Training by Shirley Conley

Part of the fun of Dog Scouts is to engage in social interactions with dogs and other pet parents; to this end Troop 183 members and friends were invited to get together April 7, 2013 on 2 acres of private property in Orlando, FL. With lovely weather and a peaceful setting, this was a great opportunity for us to relax and chat, and let our dogs meet and play with some new friends. We had a mix of dogs, some were a little more reserved so we used this opportunity to help them feel more confident around other dogs, and some were romping, stomping youngsters, so this was an opportunity to teach them to be respectful and exhibit appropriate play and social behaviors around dogs of different sizes.

Before play time we discussed some of the aspects of the Dog Scout written test, which many of our troop have been working on, and ideas for how to help our new members research the answers to the questions. As we got our dogs out and pottied them, Troop Leader, Astrid, was able to observe Troop Member, Shirley, performing part of the Dog Scout practical exam – clean up!

Our location held many enticing smells and distractions which caught our dogs' attention; we rewarded our dogs, like Astrid's All American Dog, Boomer, and Brenda's All American Dog, Tuvi, with more chances to investigate the cool smells when they checked in, and we also asked for our dogs to perform fun tricks in the new environment so we could reward them with treats. Astrid's All-American Dog, Loki, thought this was a great idea, and chow hound, Blade, Shirley's smooth collie, was more than happy to sit for a treat for anyone who was carrying cookies, and quite willing to point out where the cookies were being stored, in case we'd forgotten.

Karyn and Susan brought toys for their dogs, this made our dogs with natural retrieving instincts happy because they could carry toys around, and our dogs with terrier and herding traits were thrilled to play games involving running and chasing. With our knowledge of dog language, we watched for any signs of our dogs getting over excited or too intimidated, but our group of dogs handled their play time very well, with no resource guarding, and with plenty of space our sensitive dogs could interact or not as they chose, and we were vigilant about breaking play up every couple of minutes so we could reconnect with our dogs and make sure they didn't get too excited.

During playtime, Susan and All-American Dog, Julie, worked on "loose leash walking", using some high value treats. Susan rewarded Julie for hanging out in heel position and walking with her even though she didn't have a leash on at the time. Shirley and Karyn worked with their young dogs Cody (Golden Retriever) and Nim (Smooth Collie) on checking in with them when both youngsters would rather be interacting with the other dogs.

Later, new member, Cyndi and Flat-Coated Retriever, Casey, and troop friends, Michele and her Boxer, Titan, joined us for some training. We did a group sit stay and down stay, Susan got some tips on how to encourage Julie to lie down quicker using a pause table and rewarding the faster responses; Karyn and Maya, Michele and Titan, and Shirley and Blade worked on some AKC competition obedience exercises in preparation for the obedience trail they were entered in. Cyndi, in preparation for the upcoming Flat-Coat national specialty show, worked with Casey on keeping her head up as she gaited using a target point on the fence for Casey to focus on as she trotted towards it. Michele brought some practice jumps, so we took turns in negotiating our dogs over the jumps - great preparation for the Obstacle badges. Susan was able to work on rewarding Julie for holding the sit while she led out past the jump and Brenda had some success with Tuvi as she took the jumps in a new location around unfamiliar people and dogs. We're looking forward to more fun get-togethers where we can relax and enjoy our dogs, brainstorm training and activity ideas, and build our canine and human friendships.

Spring Scents by Carol Czwornog

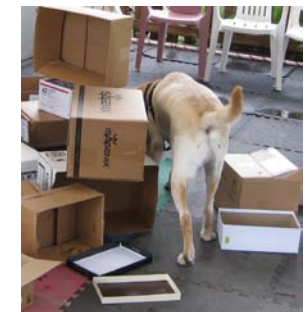
Troop 183's April event almost got washed out! We all came prepared with lots of treats, empty boxes and empty Altoid tins ready to watch our dogs use their sense of smell at our planned outing at Gemini Springs in DeBary. One of our own troop members, Shirley Conley, an instructor at Best Paw Forward, gave us an introduction to scent games. We had hopes that the rain would subside long enough for us to enjoy the nature trails and dog park after our training session. However, the rain continued to come down hard and didn't appear to be letting up anytime soon.



We were excited to have guests, Chris and Sandi Wise and their Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Major, join us and had a backup plan to meet at our regular meeting place, the activity building at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, if needed; but we were not expecting the main road getting there to be backed up with traffic because of a car crash on the wet road. While we gathered around in the rain thinking of an alternate plan, Shirley suggested a pole barn out at the Osteen training facility of Best Paw Forward. As a dedicated Dog Scout troop, we weren't giving up our plans for the afternoon to the rain. We all loaded up in our cars and followed Shirley to Osteen another 30 minutes away.



After driving through such a downpour of rain, we were excited to arrive and be able to continue with our plans without the rain since it had stopped by the time we got to our new location. We are thankful to Best Paw Forward for the use of their facility and to Shirley for her instruction and the activities she had planned for the event. It was exciting to watch the dogs weave their way through the boxes to find the hidden treats.



Another activity our dogs got excited about was getting to eat the treats we stuffed inside an Altoid tin. We scented the tin with our scent then hid it in the grass; when our dogs found our scented object we rewarded them immediately for using their amazing noses. Afterwards, some troop members enjoyed the use of Best Paw Forward's agility field and equipment.

Although we got off to a soggy start, it was a great ending with Shirley and Blade passing the Dog Scout test. We welcome another Dog Scout to the troop as we continue to educate and train our members at our monthly events. We all had a great time together letting our canine companions learn new things. Later in the week, Shirley sent the troop a document with step-by step instructions for the games we played and ideas for developing them, along with links to learning more about nose work and various scenting activities we might try.

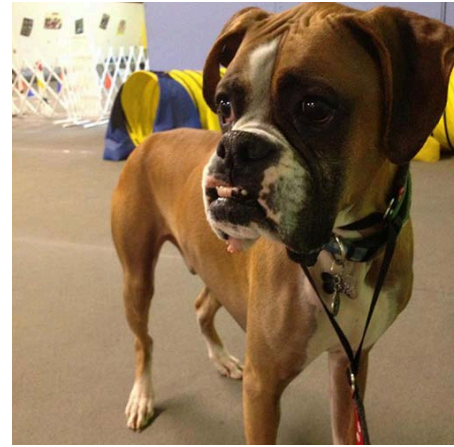


It's finally starting to look like spring in Columbus!! CDS hasn't done much as far as Troop activities over the winter, however, Kym raised \$500 for the Frost-A-Thon and her dogs were anything but dormant over the cold months. She has continued Pages & Paws along with several other Troop members as well as BASE and regular Heritage Middle Scholl visits all the while keeping her own Agility and Rally schedule yet still found time to run her business training others to make their dogs lives as much fun as possible!



I am proud to say that my little Gwenie finally passed her DSA test! In the beginning I thought we were going to grab that title right away but then, despite our great socialization and training Gwen went through a later fear period and we had to work through it. My Troop friends were super supportive and helped us through with lots of patience and recommendations of literature for me to read. We persevered and now my baby Gwen is Gwen, DSA!

Sadly, we saw two more of our Scouts head over the Rainbow Bridge. Allison lost Kannika so soon after losing Noelle and MaryRose just had to say goodbye to her boy Malcolm. Our hearts are with you both.



What else... In DSA title news, we have the first Norwegian Lundehund Dog Scout! Vikki Wilcox and Firefly passed their DSA towards the end of last year. A few fun facts about the Norwegian Lundehund, they were bred to hunt Puffins, they are polydactyl, and they are weirdly jointed which allows them to get in to and out of all kinds of orneriness other dogs wouldn't even be able to dream up!

We're looking forward to spring and summer!! We have at least a couple of members planning to attend the Leadership Retreat, and we always have a few members who attend one Dog Scout camp if not both! Bring on the nice weather!!

~Andrea Mykrantz, Troop Leader #207

Troop 213/Colorado

April First Aid Meeting

For our April Dog Scout troop meeting we were fortunate enough to have Krista Kurvers and Jim Boller from Code 3 Associates speak to our troop about Canine First Aid. Krista and Jim covered the topics our troop members need to practice with their own dogs to earn the First Aid badge. They also talked about what to do if we came across an injured dog that we didn't know. Troop members were able to practice skills including how to make an emergency muzzle, bandaging a leg and taking their dog's vital signs. We talked about how important it is for all of us to know our pets' vitals and practice these things when our dog is healthy and relaxed to make it easier for us to help our dogs should they be injured and stressed. At the end of the meeting we began testing for the first aid badge and will continue testing as our members and their dogs practice the behaviors and are ready to demonstrate the badge skills.



Practice this your pups,



Different options to transport our pups. In case restraint is needed



Alyna Waters and Isabelle



Laura Pescador and Misha



Margo Suzuki and Hailey



Kelly Paine and Ruby



Eric, Asha and Pepper

Code 3 Associates, Inc, a 501(c)3 non-profit, is dedicated to providing professional animal disaster response and resources to communities, as well as providing professional training to individuals and agencies involved in animal related law enforcement and emergency response. You can learn more about Code 3 Associates by visiting their website at: <http://www.code3associates.org/>.

Troop 213 Pups that earned their First Aid Badge:



Ace Montilla-Goad



Hailey Suzuki



Sage Bailey



Seven Montilla-Goad

Sage and Jen complete the Utility Pack Dog Title - by Jen Bailey

In March, Sage and I completed our Utility Pack Dog title through the Dog Scouts Pack Dog program. This title required logging a total of 200 miles including 2-10 mile hikes and 1-5 mile hike all while under pack carrying the required items. The Fido Frost-A-Thon really helped to boost our miles during February and we carried that momentum into March. We had hoped to log 50 miles during February for the Frost-A-Thon but a late month snowstorm hindered that effort and we ended at 46.73 miles for the month. So, in March, we continued hiking and were able to beat our February number with a total of 54.61 miles and complete the UP Title.



Stopping for a photo opp during one of our hikes

We completed the second 10 mile hike back in February and were able to go the whole 10 miles in one long hike with several water breaks along the way. The day we chose for the second hike wasn't as nice as the first as there was a storm rolling that day. Toward the end of our hike the weather turned cloudy, cold and windy and I was grateful to have packed some cool weather gear to bundle up. We were able to finish the hike before the snow started and get home out of the elements. Sage and I really enjoyed the pack dog program, it was a fun way to work up both of our conditioning levels

during the winter months when it's harder to be out playing agility due to snow and cold. Plus, it was fun to have goals to work toward all winter long as well! The weather in Colorado has started to turn to spring so we'll put the pack aside when it gets too warm but will be back carrying the pack on cool days and again in the fall.

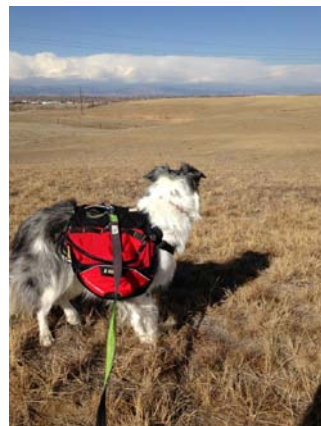


Photo right: Watching the approaching storm the day of our second 10 mile hike.

Submitted by **Julie Montilla-Goad Troop Leader Troop 213/Colorado**

Troop 217 – Southeast Michigan

Troop 217 has been keeping active, as usual, with a variety of fun and exciting troop events and activities. Congratulations are in order to Michelle Neu and Sassy and Julie Benson and Shelby for earning their Reading Dog Therapy badge.



Left - Shelby with regular weekly reader, Emily, at the West Bloomfield Library.

On February 16th, troop members gathered at the MI Humane Center multi-purpose room to make crafts of fleece blankets and toys to donate to the Michigan Humane Society and Huron Valley Humane Society. Twenty-nine (29) blankets were made during the 3 hour event along with over fifty (50) tug toys. We also had a troop craft where troop members could make dog tags customized with their dog's name and phone number. This craft was a huge hit so we plan on offering it at more events throughout the year.



all met for our monthly troop hike. This month, we chose two neighboring nature areas in Ann Arbor, Michigan: Bird Hills and Barton Park. Trails were a little slick from snowfall, but the scenic views of the Huron River were well worth the effort, and the group enjoyed getting out for a good four mile hike on this winter afternoon.

Photo right - Cadence Schmorow-Zuckerman enjoying the fresh snowfall during the monthly troop hike.



On March 10th Troop 217 ventured to Island State Recreation Area in Brighton for a hike. A break in the cold brought about an almost 60 degree day which all troop members and dogs enjoyed.

On March 15th, Catherine Stafford and Bob Carlini hosted our 2nd annual video night where various troop members gathered to watch Patricia McConnell's Dog Play video. Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner before settling down – homemade pizzas, pasta salad, and an assortment of desserts.

Walled Lake Elementary school's Daisy and Brownie Girl Scout leaders heard of Troop 217 from our visit last school year and invited us to join them in March to teach their girls (ages 5-8) all about pet care and bite prevention. On March 14th, Julie Benson & Shelby, Diane Schuler & Odie, and Michelle Neu & Sassy met with their Brownie troop to teach them everything from bite prevention, diet and exercise, and basic pet care. Sassy showed off her skills on the piano while also taking turns with Shelby running through our portable agility tunnel. At the very end of the presentation the girls were then invited to come meet and greet the dogs.



On March 28th, we returned to Walled Lake Elementary to meet this time with their Daisy troop and another Brownie troop to teach them all about dogs. Diane Schuler and Odie covered everything to know regarding bite prevention and Julie Benson and Shelby covered everything about basic pet care, diet, and exercise. Shelby showed off her agility skills weaving through her portable weave poles and also demonstrated her mental exercises by playing the banjo for the girls.

Photo left - Shelby meeting and greeting a Daisy Scout.

Julie and Diane also visited with twenty-three Daisies at Hillside Elementary in Farmington Hills, MI on March 26th. All the girls have such a great time seeing the dogs, enjoy having the opportunity to ask really great questions, and it's a great way for us as Dog Scout members to get the word out to our communities about the Dog Scout way and encourage positive reinforcement training. It's also a great way to show off our dog's uniforms!! To quote one Brownie "how do these dogs learn to do all these things – especially Shelby being so little and having so many badges!"



Photo right - Shelby showing off her skills on the banjo!



On March 30th, Julie Benson and Shelby along with Melissa and Matt Perez with Drizzle participated in the IronDog 5K walk in Lansing, MI. IronDog supports the advanced medical and surgical care of animals at the Michigan State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital whose owners cannot afford their treatment.

Photo left - Matt & Melissa Perez w/Drizzle after completion of 5K walk

April 6th marked a very special day when fundraising troop members Julie Benson and Shelby, Melissa Perez and Drizzle, Michelle Neu and Sassy, and Vickie Lomas and Duncan presented six canine oxygen mask kits to Huron Valley Ambulance. HVA will distribute these kits (which contain a large, medium, and small mask) to EMS and local fire houses in Oakland, Wayne, and Washtenaw counties. The other kit that was purchased with our fundraising money from 2012 will be presented to the Inkster Fire Department in the near future.



Photo left - Troop 217 Oxygen Mask Fundraisers - Melissa Perez with Drizzle, Vickie Lomas with Duncan, Julie Benson with Shelby, and Michelle Neu with Sassy

On April 7th troop members met up at Maybury State Park for another hike, taking the paved trail route, totally 2 miles around the park. A future new member met up with us to check out the troop and get to know some of our members. After the first loop, members and dogs were up for more so most headed out for a second loop, totally 4 miles for the day.

Diane Schuler and Julie Benson visited yet another Brownie troop on April 10th to once again assist them in earning their pet care badge. Once again, the duo of dogs were a huge hit with all the Brownie girls (grades 1st and 2nd) and the troop leaders.



Shelby with Daisy Troop 1042

On April 12th, Shelby Benson made her first of three appearances at Kenbrook Elementary School to meet with her handler Julie Benson's, Daisy troop. At this meeting, Julie, with the assistance of Shelby, taught her group of eight Daisy Scouts (1st graders) all about bite prevention. Upcoming meetings will cover basic pet care, diet and exercise, and demonstrations from each of the girls on how to properly greet a dog and how to show others how to brush a dog. Despite the cold temperature and occasional sleet/snow, Michelle Neu and Sassy, Kim Behrmann and Winnie, Catherine Stafford and Bob Carlini with Leela and Liberty, and Julie Benson and Shelby met at Proud Lake Recreation Area in Commerce, MI, to set out for some letterboxing fun. This being Catherine and Bob's first attempt at letterboxing, troop leader Julie, filled them in on the basics of letterboxing, explaining the do's and don'ts when on the trails, information on altasquest.com, and the difference between hand carved and store bought stamps. Everyone had a great time, finishing the trip with four letterbox finds.

For more information on any of our troop's events, contact Julie Benson at bensonjulie@earthlink.net or Angela Schmorow-Zuckerman at reddogblues@gmail.com. You can also check us out at our troop website: <http://dsatrop217.com>.

--Submitted by Julie Benson, Troop Leader

Dog Scout Troop 219 – The New England Explorers
Southeastern Connecticut and Rhode Island

Our Troop is thrilled that we have come up with a Troop name and we are working on a really cool Troop Logo.

March Community Service Fun & Scent Discrimination Testing!

On March 14, 2013 our Troop Members met up at our regular meeting spot, the Waterford Country School Rose Lodge of CT to be tested on all the hard work they'd done with Scent Discrimination! Each pup put their best foot forward and did a wonderful job! After the testing was completed, we were able to continue on into learning about the fun activities we could do to earn Community Service Badges.

After working hard on their Scent Discrimination Testing, the Troop members began to go over the fun activities offered by DSA to earn a Community Service Badge! We went over things like attending marketing events with a booth for our troop to promote DSA, collecting "abandoned" piles of doggie waste, picking up recyclables off the ground and so much more. We are looking forward to the warm weather truly being upon us, so we can get out there and work with our communities!

Photos below, left to right: Scrat working on her scenting test; Sophie practicing scenting; Mo practicing scenting.



Troop Hike at Knox Preserve

On March 23, 3013 Troop 219 members gathered together for a hike and some fun on a nice day of sun, at the Knox Preserve in Stonington, CT. Pup members Sophie, Mojo, Karma and Zora had a blast doing some geocaching and had lots of fun running around exploring the new territory. Troop Leaders Kelly and Zora Ford took the opportunity to show everyone how to plant a letterbox too! The whole group helped find the perfect spot to hide Zora's new letterbox.

This was a special day for Karma, it was her 13th Birthday! Roger and little Sophie helped Clean Up America and picked up 9 bags of poop. Mo wore his new backpack for the first time and loved it! They had such a great time romping and learning on their hikes, that they went home and plopped down for a good couple hours snooze! Except Mo who still had tons more energy.

Photos below, left to right: The whole gang after finding a geocache; Roger and Sophie with their 'loot'; Birthday Girl Karma & Mo.





Easter Hike - Zora and Kelly Ford celebrated Easter with Troop members Belinda, Zeda and the Tails~n~Trails group. They had a great time and all the pups loved running off-leash together. Belinda is a trainer in Old Saybrook CT and with the help of her pup Zeda, they run meet-up group.

April Troop Meeting – DSA Badge Workshop

On April 9th, the Troop met for our regular quarterly meeting and to work on the Dog Scout Badge. We were so excited that the weather was so nice out that we were able to do our activities outdoors too! The troop members practiced and were tested on things like “Heeling”, “Leave-Its” and “Stays”, and

boy oh boy did they all have a lot of fun doing so! After the practicing and testing time was over, the Troop gathered around for the discussion and announcements segment of the Meeting. Everyone was thrilled to learn of our newly approved Troop name, The New England Explorers and were also caught up on all of the upcoming activities we could participate in during the lovely Spring weather. Playtime and talking with good friends ensued for a while after the meeting session was concluded, and the pups got a chance to sniff about their new practice grounds!



Photos left to right: Sophie working on Leave-its; The whole gang after a wonderful Troop meeting!

Park Clean Up at Haley Farm

On April 13th, the Troop met at Haley Farm State Park to help Clean Up the debris and “abandoned piles” of dog poop around the Park, as well as to go Geocaching and letterboxing too! New members, Gypsy and her mom Becky joined the

group for their first time this hike. Gypsy immediately made friends with Zora and Sophie! The three of them had a wonderful time playing and running along the trails. They started off the day with a successful geocache find, then set off further along the trail, cleaning up everything they could find as they went! Phew there was a good bit of things to be found, that was for sure! The group found a total of two geocaches and three letterboxes. The biggest feat of the day, was by Sophie however, as she and her family picked up 47 bags of “abandoned” dog poop! Sophie was able to complete the requirements of her Clean Up America 2 badge. This is Sophie’s first merit badge and we are all very proud of her. Today was also Sophie’s mom’s birthday, so we



want to wish her an extra special Troop “Happy Birthday” and we hope you had a wonderful one, Angela!
 Photos below, left to right: Sophie and Zora DSA watching out for muggles while we logged into the geocache; Sophie, Angela and Roger with 47 bags of dog poop; new member Gypsy.

This concludes this Edition of The New England Explorers Troop Newsletter and we hope you all have been enjoying the great outdoors on the warm Spring days the last couple of months! We are excited for the warm weather to become more frequent and to spend lots of time as a Troop across the parks of New England! Happy Spring and we will see you again in two months!

***Lauren Houck, Troop 219 Historian

Troop 225 – Tyler, Texas

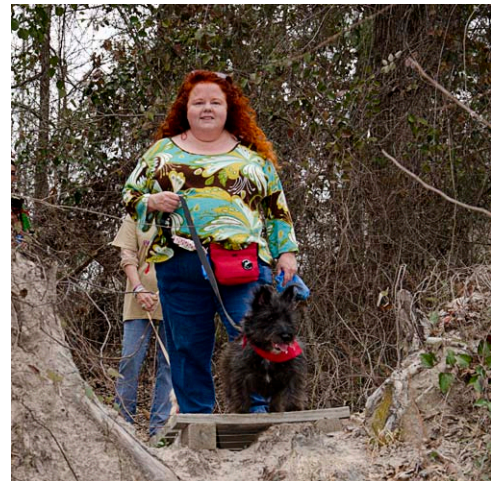
Tyler Troop 225 made a strong start! We were approved in February 2013. In anticipation of our informational meetings we prepared a press release which we emailed to the local newspaper and television station. Then we delivered these flyers with the tear-off tabs (on the bottom) which included the national website and our Facebook page info to local vets and groomers. We also delivered to the bulletin boards outside each judge's courtroom and local restaurants and coffee houses that have bulletin boards. We have been contacted from people mentioning these bulletin boards. We held the informational meetings on March 21st, 23rd, 29th and 30th. Interestingly, the meeting held on the 29th at noon on Good Friday had the largest turnout. The local newspaper ran a nice article which caused the local news station to come out to video us for the news. Here are the links, if you want to check it out:

<http://lindale.kltv.com/news/news/145731-dog-scouts-are-coming-and-your-dog-can-join>

<http://www.tylerpaper.com/article/20130329/NEWS08/130329756/0/USE>

This is a video from local tv station: <http://www.ketknbc.com/news/tyler-resident-starts-dog-scouts-troop>

We set up a Facebook page to more efficiently announce upcoming meetings and activities without having to send out a million emails and respond to a million emails. What we didn't realize was what a great marketing tool our Facebook page is: Tyler Troop 225 which was listed on the flyers with tabs and in all the news articles. So when our troop had it's first hike at Faulkner Park on March 9th, we posted on Facebook our photos which we will use in promotional materials. If a start up troop doesn't have a member who is a photographer, I would suggest it is worth hiring one. However, nothing really happened on the Facebook page until our Troop participated in the Northshore Animal League Adoption Day at the Walmart parking lot in Tyler, TX on April 7th. We set up a kissing booth! People would bring their dogs and Gabe Urbina, a professional photographer and member, would take photos. We only posted 4 photos, but it went viral very quickly. The reach was around 1200 people. When you have a Page on Facebook, you get all this tracking information and statistics. We have also learned to post something significant early on Sunday evening with an evocative photo. Apparently, everybody and their dog are on Facebook at that time!



I am Natalie Fletcher, troop leader and I am the redhead. Gabe has labeled our photos pretty well. The little girl and the boy in the wheelchair are people who came to the booth but are not members. The group photo of our initial members are Pat McCarthy, my husband with Bob, Gayle Helms with Bentley, Casey, Gabe's son with Chuck, me and my mother, Rusty Fletcher, Leslie, Gabe's daughter, and Gabe's wife, Stephanie.

The next big spike was when we posted the notice that our first official meeting would be a combination meeting with a birthday pawty. I found a nice photo of dogs eating cake. I also learned to tag people who are our supporters. This apparently puts our post onto their timeline. So if a tagged person has 2000 friends, then they all see your post. So be careful with your posts! You can also create an event for your Facebook page to which you invite people from Facebook.

Rainbow Bridge
Springhill Letter to Santa aka Holly Woodworth
9-17-97 to 3-17-13



MaryJane Woodworth

Holly and I first came to camp in 2000. I wasn't sure how much she could do since she was so tiny only 7" tall and only 4 pounds. but I figured we would try, At least, we would spend a week relaxing in the woods. Holly did it all and we had a blast that week. She swam (not her favorite) she hiked and carried her backpack with all the required items , Agility was no problem since she was all ready running agility. So that badge came easy and so did the DSA badge. She had a CD and her CGC. She love playing the games at night and since she was smart everyone wanted her on their team. We came back 2 more years and had a blast. Holly wormed her way into Ed's heart and he thought it was unfair to make Holly walk 5 miles. Holly had a way of working those eyes to get what she wanted. Holly and Ed got Lonnie to change the rules, I am so glad I came to camp with her. I have lots of good memories.

In Closing . . .
"Dogs Welcome"

A man wrote a letter to a small hotel in a Midwest town he planned to visit on his vacation. He wrote:

"I would very much like to bring my dog with me. He is well-groomed and very well behaved. Would you be willing to permit me to keep him in my room with me at night?"

An immediate reply came from the hotel owner, who wrote:

"Sir: I've been operating this hotel for many years. In all that time, I've never had a dog steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or pictures off the walls. I've never had to evict a dog in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly. I've never had a dog run out on a hotel bill. Yes, indeed, your dog is welcome at my hotel. And, if your dog will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay here, too."

Submitted by **Chris Puls**

Note from your Editor

Due to health reasons, the next issue, July/August, will be my last as Editor of the Dog Scout Scoop. My arthritis has become too challenging to type and create the newsletter. I have been honored to do this task for 4 years and it has been a joy in my life. I hope that the next Editor enjoys creating the newsletter as much as I did. With the advent of yahoo groups, blogging and Facebook©, it is my understanding that those tools may be used to get the Dog Scout news to you more quickly. It has been extremely fun getting to know the Troops and some of the Troop Leaders and members over the years. You will remain forever in my memory as friends I met along the journey. Take care. Hope to see you at camp!

Peggy Zweber, Editor with her crew, Cate, Luke and Charly

