

BOYKIN SPANIELS FOREVER

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

VOLUME IV

2010



EDITORIAL

It's time to welcome in 2011! Looking back, 2010 was a pretty eventful and significant year for dogs of the Hollow Creek bloodline. As a group, we witnessed some profound accomplishments of which my clients and I are very proud:

GCG Hollow Creek's Jaeger Meister- "Jaeger" was the first Boykin Spaniel to achieve Grand Champion status. Jaeger ranked among the Top Five Boykins Spaniels in the AKC and thus received an invitation to compete at Westminster which is held at Madison Square Garden in New York on February 15, 2011. Jaeger was handled by his owner and my dear friend, Greg Copeland of Texas Trace Kennel.

GCH Hollow Creek's Kingfisher- Amazingly, Fisher finished his championship at nine and one half months of age. And his GCH only five days after first birthday. Fisher also ranks among the top five Boykin Spaniels and as well, he received a invitation to compete at Westminster. Fisher is owned by BFF, Carole Thomas, and he is currently being handled by Aaron Wilkerson. You will remember Aaron for he won Westminster in 2008 with Uno ...the little beagle that stole everyone's heart.

CH Hollow Creek's Allie-Gator- Allie is still fabulous at the mature age of nine 9 1/2 years. She is the Sophia Loren of Boykin Spaniels. What a thrill it was when Allie, who is owner handled by Vivian Grice, defeated two ranked Boykins Spaniels, who are professionally handled, in the conformation ring. Vivian, another BFF, who is also 'mature' and not a Sophia Loren per own words ...finished both Allie and Woody (see below). Huge accomplishment! Hooray for "Viv" Loren"!!! Allie will be just three weeks shy of 10 years of age when she competes at Westminster in February! Absolutely amazing!

CH Woody Watts- aka the "Wild Man" is just full of himself and has found a "new" love ...agility! Woody was a conformation Champion at 16 months and will continue competition for his GCH title. Watching Woody 'grow up' has been entertaining ...as has watching him 'work' Vivian in the conformation ring. ☺ So that you can truly appreciate her accomplishment in finishing Woody ...I must tell you that Vivian is only 5' and Woody is all muscle ...and thinks he is 10 feet tall.

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So, all in all, 2010 has been a great year for the Hollow Creek bloodline and all of their proud owners ...it doesn't matter if they are "Champions of record" or family "couch potatoes".

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Lets hope the New Year finds everyone working toward the same goal ...that goal should be to advance this amazing breed

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Happy Hunting!

Patricia L. Watts,
Owner/Editor



Letters to the Editor

- Thanks for the heads up! We were excited to see Woody at the National Dog show today - even Gus, who loves to watch tv, was excited (his favorite movie is "Hotel for Dogs"). Congrats to you and Hollow Creek for the outstanding role you have played. They're amazing dogs. Happiness is a Boykin Spaniel!

- Jacie and Jim Norine, SC

- Congrats on the Hollow Creek dogs. The wins and the handlers are only 20% of it the other 80% are the dogs and this reflect the integrity and the dedication to the breed by Patricia Watts. So darling keep up the good work and soon the rest of the world will agree with me ...you are the best thing that could have happened to this breed.

- Keith Pittman, Trainer, NC

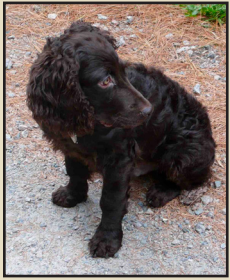
COVER PHOTO

*Featured is GCH
Hollow Creek's
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Otis THE Boykin Spaniel

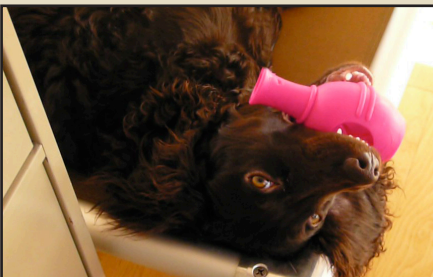
by Magda Fernandez



This quarterly column is about life with Otis, my companion Boykin Spaniel. His full name is Hollow Creek's Otis on the Go, but you can call him Otis. In the 16 weeks that I've owned young Otis,

I've learned more than I used to know about dogs because Otis really left me no choice! My little guy is all at once willful, energetic, curious, slightly shy, elegant, scrappy, gruff, mouthy as heck, and wildly capable of outfoxing me without proper handling. By handling, I mean smart and humane handling -the kind of positive handling that keeps you three steps ahead of your dog and that works with-not fights against-those keen hunting instincts so that he comes to see you as his master companion instead of prey or adversary.

All I can tell you is that when my affectionate, eight week-old, seven-pound Otis started biting my pant legs, growling at me over the leash, and shying away from other dogs, I knew that I had to quickly learn to unravel what seemed, at the time, a little curly, brown bundle of contradictions. I realized that this was not the mellow lapdog that I used to have. This time I had a more complex firecracker on my hands! So right away I enlisted the help of a trainer to teach me how to transform my little snapping turtle into a spirited companion



dog. Seizing the window of opportunity in his development, I enrolled Otis in three back-to-back puppy socialization classes to work on his dog shyness, while making sure that he greeted other dogs during our many long walks. I read selected books, blogs, and talked to many dog owners about their experiences with

tough puppy stages. All of these efforts made a world of difference, and I can say that I'm now in full charge of my adolescent Otis, and have no fear of extricating something from his mouth if I have to growl or no growl. Speaking of which, I also have learned to distinguish Otis' bluff from gruff. We're still working on "Drop it," but we're getting there. But golly can Otis fetch and retrieve, come



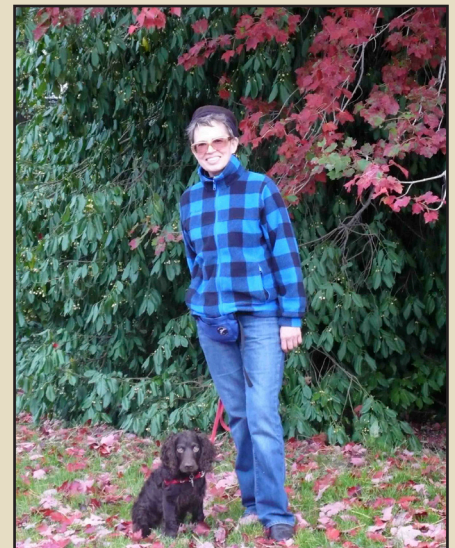
when called, and stick with me off-leash during our daily walks in the woods and parks. Folks who pass us cannot believe he can do all these things at his young age! Although Otis is still hesitant with some dogs, he now jumps right in there with most of them, chasing and wrestling like there's no tomorrow. It is a joy to see Otis' self-confidence blossom, as he continues to excel in his obedience class. His teacher calls Otis an extremely operant dog and thinks that he will shine in agility class. Sounds like fun to me!

How did I wind up with Otis? This time around I wanted an active dog that could share my love of the outdoors. I wanted him to be of moderate size with a trainable disposition. I definitely wanted him to be energetic but not high-strung. There's a difference. Of course, I wanted him to be healthy and beautiful, at least to my eyes.

With this checklist in mind, it should come as no surprise that my search led me right to the Boykin Spaniel breed and to Pat Watts' outstanding Hollow Creek Boykins. I knew I had found my match made in heaven. So after eight months on Pat's waiting list, my husband and I drove to Leesville, SC, to choose and take home our eight week-old Hollow Creek puppy to his new home in

Jamaica Plain, MA. Pat knew that I favored a curly-haired male, so she singled out a pup for me. Although I didn't want a dominant pup, I also didn't want a prohibitively shy one, either. Otis definitely was not an alpha dog and he seemed slightly shy towards another visitor in the house. But Otis let me pick him up and hug him close without resisting. Otis also voluntarily plopped himself onto my husband Greg's lap and claimed him with lots of wet licks. Pat was right when she said, "Otis has chosen YOU!"

This first encounter cemented the start of our new life together. We got to see Otis take a last run around his lake front home with his mom, Hollow Creek's Brown Sugar Watts. Watching them together brought tears to my eyes. It was a beautiful sight, and I vowed silently to Sugar that I would give her pup a good life. Originally I had worried about young Otis' ability to handle the strain of a long-distance drive, right after being plucked from his first family. Sure enough, Otis did vomit his breakfast after driving only a few yards away from his kennel. But after that Otis never cried and instead just slept on my lap or looked up at me or out the window with great curiosity with his beautiful hazel eyes. The long drive up the east coast was a blessing because it allowed me to physically bond with Otis and communicate to him that he was in good hands. We all know that you can't do much with your dog without first gaining his trust. That long drive home was a wonderful start that I'll never forget.



The GABRIEL chronicles

by Doyle Bickers



CHAPTER 1

"A New Ruler in The Kingdom"

His excellency Gabriel (already known to new friends as Gabe) has arrived home. After approximately sixteen hours here, he has begun to settle into his new home and to completely rearrange our lives.

Some background is in order. Gabe is a seven week old Boykin Spaniel. He comes from Hollow Creek Kennel in South Carolina. If you Google "Boykins Forever," you will get their web site. I learned of Hollow Creek when I saw the breeder, Pat Watts, on an outdoor show. I was so impressed with her approach to breeding and starting puppies that I knew, if we ever had another dog, I wanted one of hers. The fates smiled. After initial conversations, I was even more impressed. It turned out that a litter was available about the time that my wife Phyllis and I were feeling the pull to have another dog. Our wonderful old Springer Spaniel Murphy had passed away the previous spring. I had a strange feeling that even Murphy approved and that his spirit would somehow mentor the pup.

We reached the kennel and three male

puppies tumbled out to greet us. After a short while, it became apparent that we had been selected. We probably wouldn't have chosen the largest pup in the litter, but it was clear that he had made his choice. We were his.

I am, of course, already biased. But the little dog is amazing. He handled the six hour drive home beautifully, sleeping in Phyllis' lap and taking advantage of rest stops. When we got to the house, he came inside, hopped in the bed that we had prepared for him and began to play with a toy. By the next morning, he was in complete control. He woke me once during the night. I took him out, he did his business, and after a little snack and some warm milk, he went back to sleep. I had put his bed beside me on the floor. When I awoke this morning, he had crawled out of the bed and was sleeping protectively on the carpet beside me – just as Murphy had done for 16 years. It felt right.

He waddles around the yard with his nose inspecting all the new scents. I can't wait to see how he reacts to the aphrodisiac smell of a live quail (probably late this winter). The stuffed animal he hauls around is as big as he is. He chases balls, growls ferociously at toys and even snores like old Murphy. I remember one time years ago when Phyllis' mother stayed with us. She said that she had walked past our door during the night and could hear three distinct snores.

In a time when change is so prevalent and often disturbing, it is an important anchor for me to know that the love of a dog goes on.....

Well, this getting long-winded. Other installments will probably follow.



CHAPTER 2

"The Yard"

Day 3 – It is hard to believe that we brought him home two days ago. This is his second full day here and the transformation is phenomenal. For the first day, he shadowed our every step, fearful of letting us out of his sight. He has now found a favorite spot at the foot of my chair and has developed the confidence to rest there watching our comings and goings.

I am not sure that he knows his name yet, but he has definitely learned the word "outside." "Gabe, do you want to go outside?" He heaves his chubby body up and toddles at his best speed for the back door.

The fenced back yard is well-suited to a puppy. The lower yard is a large manicured lawn that must appear as a huge pasture. The upper end is a small woodlot with the ground covered in pine straw and leaves. The yard is home to squirrels, chipmunks, and various birds that come to the feeders. Periodically, a small squadron of doves takes over the ground below one particular feeder.

I think that I have an idea of what he must feel as he roams around the yard hearing, smelling, seeing, touching

(... continued on page 5)

The Gabriel Chronicles

(... continued from page 4)

and feeling everything. I was once an observer to the following vignette. Outside of Boone, North Carolina, there is a small town called Valle Crucis. The little community is dominated by an old-time General Store – The Mast General Store. The proprietors have done a good job of maintaining the feel of an early 1900's store. But at one end of the store there is magic. There is a vintage candy store that makes Willy Wonka look mundane. Row after row of barrels and racks contain every imaginable color and taste – red, green, orange, white, clear, chocolate, peppermint, sour and fruity. I watched small children stand transfixed in front of this boggling array. And some foolish parent dared to say, "Which ONE would you like?"

I think that Gabe must feel some of this same childhood wonder as he explores his new world. Every twig, leaf and rock must seem like a different piece of candy.

The yard is surrounded by and partly filled with large pines and hardwoods, so raking is a regular weekend activity in the fall and winter. I wasn't sure how Gabe would respond to my raking. He ambled out into the yard, wandered over to inspect a particularly interesting pine cone, and then watched me begin. The rake apparently represented a giant toy adversary. As I swept, he attacked growling and grabbing a tine. He actually attempted to climb the large plastic rake. He backed off evaluating his foe. At that point, he spotted the pile of leaves. Mounting his best charge he attempted to reach the summit. What would I have given for a camera? There will always be an indelible image in my mind – the picture of that little brown head poking from the top of the pile, his body buried in the leaves and a look of total childlike satisfaction on his face.

Would that I could feel that again.



CHAPTER 3

"Milestones"

For Gabe, every day is filled with milestones. He climbs the stairs to the back porch with no help. A very few days ago, the doggie door was conquered. All too soon he will leap into the truck without my help.

I mark milestones differently now. Birthdays, surgeries, the death of friend. Occasionally, there is a new hunting adventure, the discovery of a special new book, or the pleasure of watching a niece or nephew catch their first trout on a fly.

One of the great joys of being owned by a puppy is that, vicariously, we relive the excitement of those discoveries that came when we were younger.

Today was special. At almost nine weeks of age, Gabe made his first trip to the farm. Until now, we had walked round and round the house yard, endlessly chased the ball, and wrestled until I wore out. He needed a little more exercise.

I pulled through the gate at the farm and headed the truck to the terrace away from the cows (one new thing at a time). I lifted him to the ground. He cautiously began to explore this new world. I walked off across the pasture

and he ambled along. His legs were growing and he covered the ground surprisingly quickly. We walked by blackberry thickets that held rabbits. We eased down a fence row where sparrows and other birds made their nests. His tail vibrated unceasingly as he explored each new spot.

Soon we reached the pecan grove. The ground was littered with hulls from where the crows and squirrels had fed. Gabe grabbed a whole pecan and ran off with it as if it was one of his balls. About this time, I was looking down the grove. I thought that I had seen a fox squirrel move. I watched for a moment and turned around. Gabe was bounding joyfully toward me carrying what he thought was the treasure of a king. He got closer and I realized that, on this auspicious day, he had discovered the canine holy grail, the incense of which filled his lungs with the joyful essence of eau de cow paddie.

I know how disappointed he must have felt. Here he had brought me this great gift and I chastised him. We headed back to the truck. He tried to approach several more paddies, but I discouraged him. As we reached the truck he passed a particularly ripe and fresh paddie. He looked wistfully at it and turned his head to me as if to say, "But Daddy, you just don't understand."

By the way – As I write this, Gabe is lying at my feet. He twitches and moans as he dreams. I wonder what he is dreaming about.....



Phyllis & Gabe Bickers of AL

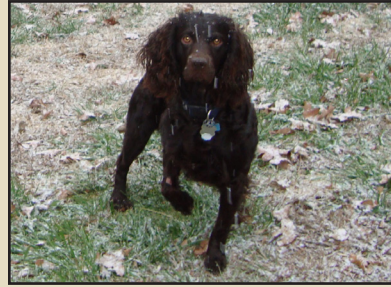
Waggin Tails



Cousin "Hank, Molly & Abby"
- David and Robyn D'Agresta of FL



"Lil Boogie"
- Hank Burdine of AL



His AKC name is Hollow Creek's Jake-Watts RN. He has his Rally Novice title. Rally is a fun sport that is best described as a combination between Obedience and Agility. Dog and handler must execute approximately 15 different signs in an course, and they are judged on their precision in carrying out these exercises as a team.

Jake has also earned his Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certificate. This is a program sponsored by AKC that shows that your dog has basic obedience and social skills. Dogs must successfully complete 10 different exercises in order to be awarded this certificate.

In the spring, Jake will be trying out a new sport called Flyball. In this speed sport dogs race each other across 3 jumps to retrieve a tennis ball on a spring-loaded box, and then come back over the 3 jumps with the ball. There are 4 dogs on a team. The minimum qualifying time for a team to receive points is 25 seconds, so you can see that Flyball is indeed a "speed sport!"

- Beth Crocker of SC



"Sullivan"
Chris & Courtney
Challoner of VA



You saw me in the snow recently in the last "Boykins Forever Journal", but now I'm romping in the grass. My name is "NITTANY" and I will be two years old this coming December. I love to play fetch with my red ball and catch frisbees in the air. Everyone asks what I use to get my "highlights". Lots of natural sunlight is all that I use.

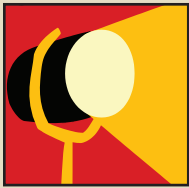
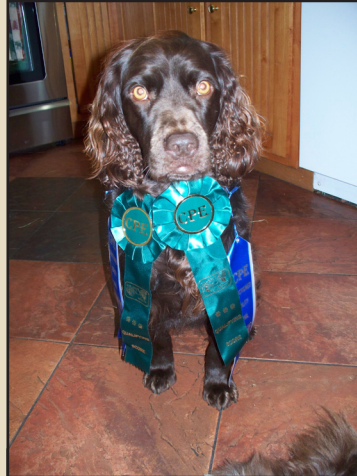
- My "Boykin Dad" is Jim Massie of PA.





"Bunny" is cooling off in Graham's, our horse, water bucket. Bunny is the best dog to have around horses. Very savvy!!! And she likes to share carrots with Graham.

- Lisa Schmidt of NH



Spotlight on... Tucker

Tucker competed in his first CPE which is Canine Performance Event, on October 17th 2009. He got his Enthusiast Level 1 Standard Title first time out. It required 2 legs of a standard agility course. He was jumping at 12 inches. I did compete him myself. Unfortunately last November he started to refuse the A Frame and I had the vet check him out. He advised me to stop the agility for awhile. I have had him on a supplement called Mega C Plus for the past year. I am going to have him checked again in January to see if we can start up the agility again. This summer we practiced at home on our agility course. We did low jumps and practiced some of our fancy footwork and turns. Tucker is such a joy to work with. He just loves to please and he loves agility. He is such a willing dog and loves to go to classes with me. He just loves to learn new things. Always waiting for that next adventure with his Mom!

He is now working in Nosework classes. He has mastered the scent of Sweet Birch. This spring we will be taking him to an odor recognition trial to get him certified in this scent. Then he will be able to compete. He is a very methodical hunter when he is looking for the Q-tip soaked in Sweet Birch. And the expression on his little face when he finds it is priceless.

We did find that he had a sensitivity to chicken. He had horrible ear problems this past year and we could not figure it out. Then my friend said that her Boykin was sensitive to chicken. We removed all chicken from his feed including the chicken I was using for training. And his ears cleared right up.

I have included our Christmas Photo that I took this year. Luke is the Springer, Tucker and Hailey is our Boxer/Spaniel rescue from the south.

- Mary and Tucker Whitney of NH



Happy New Year!



Hollow Creek Kennel

BOYKINSPANIELSforever.COM

HOLLOW CREEK KENNEL

PATRICIA L. WATTS

803.532.0990

Happy New Year!



Texas Trace

Ginger Hurley 713.501.1661

www.texas-trace.com

To feature your Boykin Spaniel in the Journal,
Email photo with a caption or description and
your name and state of residence to
BoykinsForever@aol.com

Tuckered Out by Danny O'Driscoll



For information about
Tuckered Out, which features
Hollow Creek's Chocolate
Mouse & GRCH
Hollow Creek's Alli-gator,
contact Danny O'Driscoll
<http://dannyodriscoll.com>



Web Links:

American Kennel Club - www.akc.org • Boykin Spaniel Rescue - www.boykinrescue.org

OFA - www.offa.org • CERF - <http://www.vmdb.org/cerf.html>

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