



BEDLINGTON TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA, INC. AKC GAZETTE COLUMN FOR FEBRUARY, 2007 ISSUE

REFLECTIONS AND HOPE

The Bedlington Terrier Club of America will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year, a milestone that inspires reflection on past fanciers and our hopes for the future. Our club has been so fortunate over the years to have really active, involved youngsters and young adults in our fancy.

Marjorie Hanson, our current AKC delegate, showed her first dog at the age of 10 and she has been actively involved breeding and exhibiting for over six decades. There were no Junior Showmanship classes at the time, but her offspring, son Robert and daughter Carol and Carol's children Robert and Crystal were all active Juniors and have succeeded in conformation classes as well. Crystal received the top BTCA Award for Juniors in 1997. The family presents an impressive trophy to the Best Junior at Great Western every year in Memory of Milo Hanson, Marge's husband.

Carol Rappaport, whose family has been active in the breed for 40 years, is the all time top winning Junior in our breed, besting the competition for six years. Carol was ranked in the Top 5 Terrier Juniors in the U.S. for six years, and competed successfully with the family's homebred Champions, winning the breed at Westminster in 1989 when she was only 13. She is now licensed to Judge Junior Showmanship and was invited to Judge the preliminaries at the AKC Eukanuba Invitational in 2005. She is also a recipient of the BTCA Breeder of Distinction Award.

The 80's produced two other Junior superstars, who both went on to win Best of Breed at Montgomery County, where the BTCA held its National Specialty. Marjorie Squires whose mother Mary was the AKC Delegate during the 90's, won with one of her Merwyn Bedlingtons bred by the family, and she was an accomplished Junior as well. Laurel Beveridge showed her Odette successfully in Junior Showmanship and went on to win the breed at the National with a bitch sired by her stud dog Ch. Bonny Brook's Magical Sudor.

A BTCA Director, Dr. Dennis Corash showed his first Bedlington in conformation and Junior Handling when he was four years old and remained an active Junior during his childhood. Daughter Melissa is carrying on the family tradition showing their homebreds in conformation and Junior Showmanship classes, winning the BTCA Junior award in 2002 and 2003.

Another Director, Sandy Miles, nurtured her succeeding generations with daughter Linda and granddaughter Anna showing in Junior Showmanship classes. Sandy reports that they gravitated to conformation early on, but she observes that many of today's Juniors put us "seasoned" exhibitors to shame. "Most of them work harder than we do", Sandy comments.

The brilliant accomplishments of today's Juniors fulfill Sandy's observations. A click of the mouse to <http://bedlingtonamerica.com/> will display a lovely photo of award winning Junior Renee Beutler winning Best of Breed at our National last Spring. Her family has accomplished a great deal in a very short period, having a top Junior, Obedience titled dogs and winning at the Regional and National Specialty level. Gabrielle Gilbeau has accomplished so much; a whole column could be devoted to her. First in the spotlight winning the breed at the National dog show televised on NBC with a dog she finished herself, Ch. Lamz Viva Las Vegas, JE. Gaby and Vegas won the breed over an entry of 40 at Morris & Essex and most recently bested all the Juniors at Montgomery County Kennel Club. She's just finished her first homebred Champion and plans to attend Virginia Tech to become a veterinarian. What a hope for our future!

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