



# HWA Update

Summer, 2022

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## The Future for HWA

*A love of the breed, a love of their abilities,  
a desire to showcase and grow their abilities.*

In the last 36 years HWA has come a long way helping to guide and encourage Airedales and their people in pursuit of hunting. Through these efforts we have club member dogs with AKC titles in Upland, Retrieving and Fur. We are now looking to the future and what it can bring for our beloved Airedales.

Do you have a desire to help plan this future? Do you have ideas on promoting this amazing breed in the field? Then the HWA Board is looking for you! If you're a current HWA member, please consider joining the Board and help lead HWA into the future. See the details on our Nominating Committee on page 2.

If everyone leaves it to someone else, this club will not survive. Our future is unfolding now, in your hands.



Newest HWA-member title! Congratulations to Maya and owner/handler Michael Sites on their new AKC Junior Hunter title and a qualification in the ATCA Junior Retriever Test, both held at the ATCA's Cooley Memorial Hunt Test in May.

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## 2022 Nationals Planning Underway

**HWA's 36<sup>th</sup> Airedale Field Nationals** will take place on **Sept. 9-11** at Elk Ridge Hunt Club in Bucyrus, Ohio. This year's Nationals will be a departure from our traditional pattern which included HWA Upland and Retriever Tests. This year the first day of our Nationals will have an ATCA Fur Test and our HWA Hunting Instinct Test, as in past years. However, Saturday and Sunday of the Nationals will not have HWA Hunt Tests. Instead, both days will be devoted to training workshops for both beginners and intermediate/advanced dogs and handlers. We seen a number of Airedales and owners "graduate" from HWA Hunt Tests to AKC Hunt Tests, and so entries for our club tests have fallen. That tells us that we should concentrate on training skills and practice needed to produce more "graduates."

**Bridget Bodine and her partner Charles Jindracek** will be the workshop presenters on Saturday and Sunday of for this Nationals. Bridget is a professional retriever trainer who was a popular workshop presenter at our 2015 Nationals and a 2016 all-Airedale seminar at DeCoverly Kennels. She has also trained individually with several HWA members and their dogs. Currently  
*(Cont'd on page 2, right column)*

## HWA Nominating Committee Open to Your Suggestions

In accordance with Article IV, Section 3 of the HWA ByLaws, the HWA Board of Directors has named a Nominating Committee for the 2023 elections. That Committee is:

Kim Zaborniak - [kimzab9@gmail.com](mailto:kimzab9@gmail.com)

Mary Wright - [2airedalelover@gmail.com](mailto:2airedalelover@gmail.com)

Diane Maxwell - [dyanneM0325@gmail.com](mailto:dyanneM0325@gmail.com)

All HWA members are eligible to serve on the HWA Board of Directors.

**If you'd like to be considered for an open Board position, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members by or before June 11.**

You may also put forward the name of another HWA member for an open position, but please check with the person first to see if he or she is interested in being considered.

The Board positions to be filled in for the 2023-2024 term is:

- President (Chris Halvorson must rotate off the Board after serving two terms).
- Board Member At Large (Angela Dobbins will rotate off the Board)
- Board Member At Large (Mary Wright may rotate off the Board.)



### HWA's Mission Statement

HWA is dedicated to promoting and preserving the Airedale Terrier as a versatile hunting and working companion dog.

*(Nationals Planning, Cont'd from page 1)*

her Versatile Dog Training business allows her to do seminars in various parts of the country when she isn't trialing her own Labrador Retrievers. Learn more about her on her website [www.sighttosealabs.com](http://www.sighttosealabs.com) and you can follow her on her Facebook by looking up "Bridget Bodine, Versatile Dog Training."

Bridget and Charlie will lead Beginners' Intro to Game Birds and learning training techniques such as force fetch, e-collar, and bumper drills. "Started" dogs (those that have been shot over) will be doing practice hunts and also working on advanced skills such as blinds and being steady. Both upland and retriever skills will be our focus.



This year's Nationals workshop clinicians, Bridget Bodine and Charles Jindracek

The Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Bucyrus will be our host hotel for the Nationals. This motel got great reviews from our group when we used it Fun in the Field in April. We especially liked its convenience of being just 10 minutes from Elk Ridge, not to mention its complementarily hot breakfasts.

This year's Banquet will be a catered buffet at the Trillium Events Center in Bucyrus, just a short distance from our headquarters motel. This is something new we're trying out. So far the proposed menu looks great, and we're offering a limited open bar and the chance to BYOB to this dinner.

Our Premium (the entry/reservation form) will be emailed and posted on our website in July.

## When the Light Bulb Goes On

One of the most fun things when working with puppies or dogs new to field work is seeing how dogs who haven't been exposed to game (whether fur, as in raccoons, or game birds as in chukar) react to a first whiff of the critter or bird. Many Airedales, especially pups, are tentative in their approach at first. Their initial caution dissolves quickly if their prey moves even slightly and the dog realizes its ALIVE. Suddenly the dog's instincts kick in, and the Airedale somehow understands the genetically-embedded message that it was born to be a hunter. The light bulb goes on.

The photos on this page from HWA events capture these moments. We hope to see a lot of pups and new dogs bringing their owners to the Nationals this September. Let's get those light bulbs turned on!



# Get in the Swim

All dogs can learn to swim. Some dogs like it more than others. Around the mid-1800s Airedales were developed by crossing Otterhounds with smaller terriers for the purpose of making strong-swimming, gamey dogs. That worked well. But if you don't use it, you lose it, and now it's not uncommon to hear some Airedale owners say their dogs just don't like to swim.

There are some things you can do to teach your Airedale to enjoy swimming. Best advice is to get started in puppyhood. If you have a puppy in summer, this is your time to wade in. Let the pup get its feet wet by walking or wading in shallow water. This doesn't mean pulling your leashed pup through a puddle, but if you're out walking in the woods and you jump over the creek, if the pup doesn't want to be left behind it will follow you through the water.

Lots of dogs don't mind getting their feet wet, but the scary part comes when the water gets belly-high and their feet no longer touch bottom. If you're lucky enough to have a clean pond or lake with waist-high water this is your time to pick up the pup and wade into deeper water with him. Put the pup in the water, but keep a hand under his belly and on his back. That old method of throwing a dog into the water and see if he'll sink or swim is a great way to develop a permanent dislike of the water. Instead, support him so he doesn't get his head dunked, and hang on calmly even if he struggles. Eventually his front-legs will instinctively start dog-paddling, and when he's got some forward motion going toward the shore, you can let go, but keep close.



If you happen to have other dogs swimming with you or you have a bumper to throw in the water for him to go to, that will distract him from worrying about the water. Once the pup understands that he can swim, make it more playful by throwing some bumpers from the shore or letting him chase after older dogs who jump into the water.



If you have an older, bigger dog you can't carry into the water, you could try a canine swim vest. Just like the floaties worn by kids when learning to swim, the buoyancy of the vest gives the dog confidence to get comfortable in the water. After a while, when your dog can't wait to chase bumpers into the water, you can "forget" to put on his vest. He's already figured out how to dog paddle. He won't sink.

Even if you don't plan to do hunt tests with your Airedale, swimming is a good skill to have for boating or playing near a swimming pool. After all, swimming like an Otterhound is part of the Airedale heritage.



## Beware of Blue-Green Algae



As much as we like summer's chances to let our dogs jump in a pond or lake to cool off, that could be deadly if the water is contaminated with blue-green algae. The culprit is actually cyanobacteria that's not visible, but often looks like algae when clumped together in the water. This bacteria may look like cool blue, vibrant green, brown or red algae blooms. Sometimes it looks like paint specks scattered on the water. Sometimes the water looks foamy, dirty or bright colored, and often it stinks. Only lab testing can tell for sure if a body of water has the deadly bacteria, so its best not to take a chance on water that may be contaminated.

Blue green algae grows in stagnant water, particularly late in the season when the water is warm, even moreso in dry seasons when rainfall doesn't refresh the water. A dog – or any animal – that drinks water with blue-green algae is in peril. Some forms of the bacteria cause rapid kidney failure or neurological damage that can occur within 15 minutes to several days after ingestion. Your dog doesn't even have to drink the water, as he can get the bacteria off a bumper retrieved from the water or from licking his wet fur.

If you think your dog has been exposed to blue-green algae, bathe him with fresh water and call a veterinarian immediately. Symptoms of exposure include vomiting or diarrhea, drooling, weakness, confusion, and collapse. There are many reports of dogs dying from blue green algae exposure even while being rushed to the vet. No one needs a summer's outing to end that way.

## How to Find AKC Hunt Tests

Summer through fall is prime time for AKC Hunt Tests, both Retriever Tests and Upland (Spaniel) Tests. Many of these tests are popular with folks who enter year after year, so they reach their entry limit soon after they open for entries. So its best to find tests you might be interested well before the date of the test itself.

In recent years almost all AKC hunt clubs have turned to using two online entry services to announce and gather entries for their tests. Most AKC upland (spaniel) clubs use [www.huntsecretary.com](http://www.huntsecretary.com) Most AKC retriever clubs use [www.entryexpress.net](http://www.entryexpress.net) , although each service is not exclusively devoted to one kind of test or the other. The websites for these services are easy to search for tests in the time frame and area your interested. If you plan on entering your dog, you set up an account that includes all the information your dog needs on the entry form. That information is saved, so the next time you enter, it takes just a few clicks on your computer to put in your entry.

If you'd just like to come as a spectator, the listing for each test includes the test Premium which gives locations and directions to the test grounds. Attending a local test as a spectator is a great way to see if this sport might be for you,



*If you do not wish to stay connected through our HWA email mailing list, please contact [HWApres@gmail](mailto:HWApres@gmail.com) to ask to be removed.*

## FUN IN THE FIELD PHOTO PAGE

HWA's Fun in the Field took place on April 10-11 at Elk Ridge Hunt Club in Bucyrus, OH. This annual all-Airedale training weekend gave us time to practice some raccoon tracking (using a pelt and artificial scent), do some Introduction to Game Bird sessions for new dogs, and do some flushing and retrieving practice for started dogs. A good time for all, but most especially for the Airedales who, as the photos show, are at their happiest in the field.

