

STCTB YEAR IN Review 2022-2023

Greetings fellow STCTB members!

As our club's year draws to a close I am excited to share with you all that we have continued to accomplish working toward our goal of furthering the interests of our beloved breed. This organization is extremely fortunate to have an engaged board that is always looking to improve our processes as well as bring our membership opportunities to enjoy their dogs in the company of kindred spirits!

Tending to the nuts and bolts of keeping our club efficient, responsive, and in compliance is an ongoing function that requires time, effort, and patience on the part of your board members. The board has amended bylaws and is working to improve the application process and communications. We are embarking on updates and revisions to our website. I have to do a shout out to our webmaster, Colleen Rafatti, for her exceptional work on our website. For many people this is their first exposure to the STCTB, and Colleen makes excellence our standard. Thank you, Colleen!

In October we hosted our annual Fall Fun Day at Hillsboro River State Park. This was the premier of the Club's very own lure course machine built by Pam Murray and Rick Hunter. This event brings everyone together and the dogs and spectators both had a great time. The day was packed full, and the catered lunch from Mission Barbeque was delicious.

Ocala Dog Show Grounds was the venue for a two day grooming seminar in November featuring renowned handler, Rebecca Cross. This was an opportunity to get up close and personal as Rebecca instructed and demonstrated her winning techniques. We had a variety of skill levels among participants, and a lot of camaraderie was built in those two days.

December featured our Annual Specialty Show in Orlando in conjunction with the AKC National Championship. Our show committee under the guidance of Sheila-Faith Barry put on an amazing "Christmas Tail". The entry was large and impressive. Sweepstakes Judge, Janet Bartholomew, and Regular Class Judge, Barbara Casey, had their work cut out for them. It's awesome to behold so many great dogs in one place! The amount of work that goes into producing a quality show should be recognized and appreciated. Kudos and many thanks to the show committee.

In January we launched our first quarterly general membership meeting via Zoom and hosted Lori Kelly, Scottish Terrier Club of America President, to speak on the topic, "What is a breed club?" We will be using this vehicle to provide educational programs to all members. Having a general meeting on a regular basis allows for members to become more invested in how the STCTB operates and is a means of keeping communication going in both directions.

In February we joined Scottish Terrier Rescue of Florida (STROF) to march in the annual Deland Dog Parade. What a great day! Our entry was classed up with a bagpiper in full regalia who marched with us. The crowd went crazy! Thanks to Diane Goodreau for organizing our entry. I would be surprised if this doesn't become an annual event for us...

In March the club made a return trip to Dunedin to march in the Highland Games Parade. Our partners from STROF carried their banner along with ours. Scotties in their kilts absolutely delight the spectators with lots of photo ops along the way. There was an early dinner at an establishment close to the parade route that caters to doggie diners. Fun with a capital F!

April 15th was the date of our spring “Pawtrait Picnic” held at the Dade Battlefield State Park in Bushnell. It was a potluck with burgers and hot dogs provided by the club. Member Mitch O’Rear generously lent his photography skills to take photos of the dogs for a sitting fee as a fundraiser. His work got rave reviews! There were games and of course the crowd pleaser, our lure course manned by Rick Hunter. We were fortunate to have pleasant weather and no bugs—two things you can never count on in Florida.

Our last event as of this writing was our second quarterly Zoom general meeting. Kathi Brown, a very well respected breeder of many years who has produced countless champions and instructs judges at the AKC Judging Academy, spoke on the breed standard. The presentation was exceptional and the discussions it motivated were enlightening. Again, we were very fortunate to have someone with the breadth of knowledge and the skills to teach it effectively spend their time with us. Many thanks to Pam Murray for arranging this meeting.

I am so pleased to report that your club is thriving. We have admitted a total of 24 new members (including those in process) this year alone. This may be a record! The conclusion I draw from this is that we are making progress toward our goal of being relevant to the Scottie community. All that we have accomplished this year is due to support we get from volunteers in addition to our board members. There are so many of you to thank. Volunteers absolutely make the sky the limit. I encourage anyone who would like to make a difference to contact any board member and share your intentions. If you have interest in a committee, a particular event, or in joining the board in the future please let us know. I want to acknowledge and thank Pam Lowe, a long time board member, for all of her contributions to this club’s success over the years. She has been on the job through thick and thin and always there to take on a task. She is handing over the reins to a new board member this year, and she deserves to know how much the STCTB appreciates her. I hope everyone who encounters her will take the time to thank her.

The STCTB is taking on its biggest challenge in our club’s history. We have been awarded the honor of hosting the Scottish Terrier Club of America National Rotating Specialty in May, 2024. Our show chair, Sheila-Faith Barry, has been working continuously to create a weekend of events that will bring our entire community together to celebrate the breed and put on a show that will not be forgotten. I am very proud that STROF has partnered with us to bring Scottie lovers far and wide for a fun event that will cater to all on Thursday, May 16, 2024. Mark your calendars now. This coming year will be a call for all hands on deck to make it a success. I have great expectations for the year ahead!

Linda Andresen