

## 2019 CBdFC Scent Work Trial Full Report By Lara Harriger

On September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> the Columbia Bouvier des Flandres Club held its second Scent Work Trial at the Brightwater Education Center in Woodinville, WA. This facility is attached to the Brightwater Waste Water Treatment plant and sits in the middle of a large park-like area with lots of walking trails. The building and grounds offered a variety of areas for searching. Everything from classrooms and closets, to a large multipurpose space, with gravel, grass, and concrete surfaces for the exteriors was available.



Our judges were Georgia Edwards, MD, a retired physician, longtime Bouvier owner, Club member and scent work trainer from

Whidbey Island; Miriam Rose former professional search dog handler from Sequim; and Erica Wells a scent work instructor from the Seattle area. Working with all three was a treat. They provided challenging searches and lots of feedback to the teams.

Our photographer was John Navitsky. A gallery of his images from the trial is available at <https://www.dogsportsphotos.org/photos2019/akc-20190906/>. He asks that if you want copies of images that in lieu of payment you make a donation to Big Dog Rescue Project.

Friday was a day of advanced searches as we offered classes at Advanced, Excellent, and Masters levels. Saturday we offered Novice level searches and a few Advanced and Excellent elements.

Friday was a bit warm but there wasn't a great deal of sun so dogs were kept comfortable in their vehicles. The advanced teams made a good show with the difficulty of the searches putting the dogs to the test. Turnout was a bit low. There just don't seem to be many teams working at the upper levels. That will change as time goes on.

Saturday was cooler and a much busier day with both advanced and novice searches. At the Novice level we offered all five elements - Interior, Exterior, Buried, Containers, and Handler Discrimination. There were also a handful of elements offered at the Advanced and Excellent Levels including Handler Discrimination. The Novice elements were completely filled and there were lots of first time trialers.

Novice High in Trial went to Leslie Couch and her Standard Poodle Magic. There were the only team to pass all five elements. Congratulations to a great team.

The Bouviers made a good showing with a number of Bouviers entered in the Novice elements and one dog working at the more advanced levels. Among the first timer Bouviers: Rosellen



(Bunny) Brittenham and Nash took 1st place in Buried hides and qualified in Containers and Interior, for a total of three legs.

Sara Russert and her Indi took 4th place in Exterior and qualified in Interior as well.

Mariko Saum and Star qualified in both Interior and Exterior.

The more experienced team of Lynn Brimmer and Min picked up three Qs and earned a Novice Exterior title.



While Diane Elliot and Febe earned their first leg in Excellent Containers. Congratulations in particular to the junior handler team of Izzy and Candy who qualified in Interior and Exterior, placing first in Interiors!

Georgia watching Kristy's dog proof the hides before running the competing dogs.



Others from Team Bouvier included: Christiana Offerman, who ran

Mariko Saum's BB (Christina's Nina, a star at last year's trial, was in season), and Kristy Faure who ran her youngster Ravel, while her advanced dog was the 'dog-in-white' proofing the hides.



Overall the Novice dogs did well in most of the searches. Though at the end of the day it's clear that we all need to put a lot more time into practicing the Buried elements. The results just weren't up to snuff.

There are a lot of people that were involved in putting on the trial both in the planning stages and on the day of a trial is only as good as the folks who help make it run. A big thank you to all our volunteers, especially those who also ran dogs in the Trial. We hope that you learned a lot while watching the other competitors run their dogs.

Trial chairman Lara Harriger and Secretary Diane Elliot worked behind the scenes for several months to bring the trial together. Club Committee members: Jim Harriger, Kristy Faure, and Bonnie Clouston-Mizera all stepped up to make the weekend run smoothly.

Lara and Diane (plus Febe and Blue).  
Two trials down and still friends!



Lara, Febe, Bonnie, Zack, Sara, Indi, Rose, Nash, Mariko, Star, Christiana, Candy, Izzy, Jim, Lynn, Min, Susan, Diane, and Blue.

A special Thank You to club member Susan Signor whose help through both days was invaluable. We hope to see you competing with your own dogs in the near future. Also Thank You to Georgia Edwards for her help in designing the course and a thousand other things.