

Young and Old Shine at the IRWSAA 2012 National Specialty

by Eibhlin Glennon

After a very hot, dry mid-western summer of drought, Friday, September 7 in Wilmot, Wisconsin dawned cooler and threatened rain in the morning, making the obedience entrants happy to be inside. In front of an attentive group of spectators, Cindy Simonsen judged two very well-prepared teams. Claire, Whitehot Red Cedar Serendippity RN AX OJ NF scored a 190.5 in Novice B for High in Trial and then a 92 in Rally Advanced A. Jaime, Aislingcudo Is Seimi Fionrua CD RE JH AX AXJ NJP OF, was not to be outdone by his housemate. He scored an 85 in Rally Advanced and a 79 in Rally Excellent. Congratulations to Corlie and Keith Eldred for their dogs' performances.

After an educational presentation for IRWSAA members and lunch, conformation took center stage. James Frankhauser assessed the youngsters and veterans. In the first ever 4-6 month puppy competition, two young bitches made their debut, with Caniscaeli Waltzwithme Killary beating out her rival.

Best in Sweepstakes went to Kellyn Miller's 9-12 month old puppy bitch Nyastar's Spark to a Flame; Ramona Larson's Aislingcudo Mairnealigh Gus took Best of Opposite Sex.



The veteran Sweeps brought the first tears of the day as people applauded five older bitches and three males.



Alice Guthrie's Crossfire Johnny Appleseed took best in Veteran in Sweepstakes and her Crossfire Dancing in my Dreams took Best of Opposite sex to her half-brother. The tears came when Wolf, Wolfgang Autumn Setting JH, at age 14 and 11 months slowly but proudly took his owner, Lynn Petterson, around the ring.

Mrs. Beth Speich then entered the ring to judge the regular classes and awarded Barbara Riedel's Clancuddy Phoenix of the Ashes Winner's Dog. The Sweeps winner, Nyastar's Spark to a Flame, took Winners Bitch and Best of



Winners and Best Puppy, finishing her Championship in style.



When all competitors had their chance to strut, Mrs. Speich awarded BISS to GCH Shireoak Spring Twister JH (Fergus) shown by owner B. J. Parsons. Best Opposite Sex went to GCH Red Branch Radiant Sunset at Nyastar owned by Kellyn Miller, Shawn Hazen and Jill Holt - quite a feat for a bitch who whelped a large litter just nine weeks' before. The Awards of Merit went to GCH Aramis Farms High Road to Killary (Debra Peterson and Judith Zawikowski), GCH Laurel Oak's Mid Winter Nite's Dream Judy Baumgartner) and the 11 ½ year old Best Veteran Ch Carraig CoLo Sceolang TDX NA NAJ NAP THD (Eibhlin Glennon and David Crane). The Select Dog was GCH Aramis Farms High Road to Killary and the Select Bitch was GCH Laurel Oak Mid Winter Nite's Dream.



Judy Baumgartner's GCH Mizen Duchas Dilis JH was the Stud Dog and Alice Guthrie's Crossfire Dancing in my Dreans was the Brood bitch. Alice dazzled the crowd by her single-handed showing and winning Brace and Team.

Saturday and Sunday were supported entries at the Kenosha Kennel Club shows. Best of Breed both days went to GCH Aramis Farms High Road to Killary and recent mother GCH RedBranch Radiant Sunset JH took best Opposite Sex each day. Winners Dog Saturday went to Bob and Evan Devlins' O'Dobhailien Shield's Promise and Connemara Morning Sea Star (Patty Thompson and Judith Taylor) went Winner's Bitch and Best of Winners. Select dog was GCH Mizen Duchas Dilis JH and CH Laurel Oak Listen to your Heart took Select Bitch. On Sunday Aisling Cudo Mairnealaigh Gus took Winners Dog and O'Dobhailien Lass of Tillygreig went Winners Bitch and best of Winners, while the BISS winner, GCH Shireoak Spring Twister JH took Select Dog and

new champion and BOW at the Specialty, Nyastar's Spark to a Flame took Select Bitch at only eleven months

Monday brought back the sun and heat for the Specialty Finale, the Hunt Test at Eagle, Wisconsin, which was open to all pointing breeds. Four Master Hunters passed and one Senior Hunter. Alas, though they acquitted themselves well in the field, no IRWS received a pass.

National Specialties are a time to celebrate the breed, evaluate breeding stock, make new friends and renew friendships. The fourth Irish Red and White Setter Association of America National Specialty did all that while showing that the breed has winners ranging from 5 months to nearly 15 years. A proud time for a breed that has only been recognized by the AKC since January 2009.