

Show and Tell

Maidstone Labradors

DIANE AND KENT MCCLURG AND DAUGHTER ERIN MCCLURG WEBSTER

Erin and I stepped into the world of show dogs with Erin, our oldest child, asking Kent, her dad, for a dog. His reply was that she could get one when she turned 5, thinking she wouldn't remember. And as luck would have it, a stray Miniature Dachshund showed up on her fifth birthday that she named Buster, who stayed with us for a few months until it was obvious that Buster was not going to pass house training. Buster was adopted by another family so we started our search for a dog that didn't shed, was small, smart, sturdy and liked to be part of the family.

I was directed by the Lone Star Miniature Schnauzer Club to a well bred litter of pups looking for the right families. We thought we were the right family (who doesn't?) and came home with an 8-week-old Miniature Schnauzer that we called McClurg Mercedes, who promptly became like our third child. Every child

needs discipline and Mercedes was no exception. Off to obedience school we went, with a now 8-year-old Erin, who wanted to know what was going to happen to her dog.

Mercedes took Erin and me to a place we didn't know existed--the dog show--a whole new adventure. Mercedes was an excellent obedience student, easily getting her CD with placements. Not only that, she was a very nice Miniature Schnauzer and I was asked at shows (and mind you, I knew nothing, it was like a foreign language). "What is her pedigree?" "Where did you

get her?" "Who was the breeder?" And like any good first-time dog owner, I carried her pedigree with me. I eagerly showed it to everyone who asked.



Erin, Diane and Can Ch Maidstone Edlyn Ode To Mandalay Bay



Ch Balmamores Gabriele CD "Gabby"



Brood Bitch class: Ch Maidstone Paddington Bear; Aquadots Good Golly Ms Molly CDX, Maidstone Amen

continued

Maidstone, cont'd



Reich

Ch Dickendall Buckstone Lemonade

While I was proudly showing off the pedigree, Erin was observing the other aspects of the dog show - the conformation rings and kids showing dogs. I remember it well as it was at the all breed shows in Oklahoma City when I heard her say to Kent, "I want to show dogs." And so it began for her and me.

At age 10 she started showing in Juniors with Far Hills Pacesetter, a Miniature Schnauzer who was given to us by Shirley Reynolds and Henry

McGill. One of her first Junior wins with Christie was under Jane Borders who suggested that "Your daughter should try showing a larger breed," so I asked for a suggestion. She recommended a Labrador Retriever. I had no clue who Jane Borders was, other than she was a very kind Juniors judge who took a sincere interest in a junior. It was not until several months later that I found out she was a well-known Labrador breeder.

I grew up with Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, but Kent, who is an engineer by degree, said he couldn't stand looking at a topline that was not straight and agreed to search for a Lab for Erin. We found Barb and Bob Kossieck of Aquadot Labradors, who bred our first show dog, Aquadots Good Golly Ms Molly CDX WC (Ch Kupros Marshall x Aquadots Kiss Me Kate CD).

When Molly entered our lives we were still showing Miniature Schnauzers. It was not unusual for our entire family to head to the dog show. While Erin and I showed the dogs, Kent and Ryan would



Ch Willcare Edlyn Texas T at Maidstone CD JH

be off having a great time. The guys quickly decided the dog show weekends were not for them. Erin and I would venture out to the shows, Erin showing Molly and me with the Schnauzers. While we loved the Schnauzers it was apparent that it was much easier to show a Lab due to all the grooming needed for



Ch Balnamores Freestyler, starting to snow!



Erin with Ch Brooks Flyway EM Spirit of Texas RN at Westminster Kennel Club

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Ch Maidstone Bluffdale Foxfire

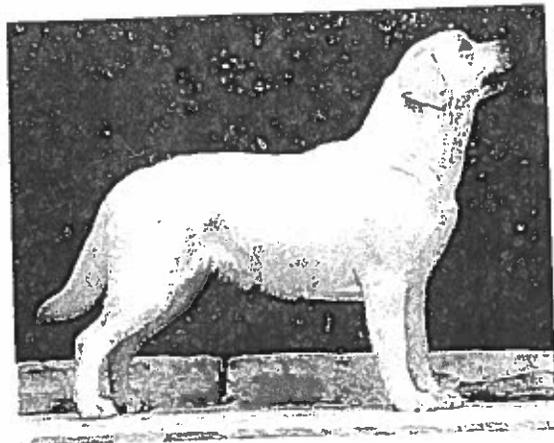
Schnauzers. It was time to get another Lab.

At a local all breed show our life with Labs was sealed when we met Chris and Marge Hutchins along with daughter Sarah of Balnamore Labradors. Marge took us under her wing. She educated, mentored, introduced us to other Lab folks, loaned us books, challenged us about structure, and above all, she, Chris and daughter Sara became lifelong friends.

Erin:

Molly was our foundation bitch, which meant we needed to breed her. I was obviously not happy about this as I wouldn't be able to compete in Juniors. Little did I know this was only a start to our lifelong family hobby.

We took Molly to Marge, and bred



Ch Edlyn Maidstone Lowood Misfit

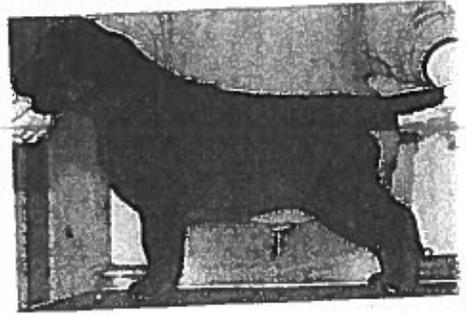
her to Ch Balnamores Bonanza CD. We had three gigantic boys, one of which became our first champion, Ch Maidstone Paddington Bear. At that time I needed another Juniors dog and I can still remember it like it was yesterday. "Erin, just pick a dog from the kennel you think will work for you while Molly has puppies," Marge instructed. I asked, "ANY DOG?," She smiled and said, "Yes, any dog."

So from that moment it was a team: Ch Balnamores Freestyler (Ch Boradors Lord Travis x Keeper Shalom Kitchen Witch) and me. He was the first dog where I got nationally ranked, the first group placing dog, the first dog who got me to Westminster - the first dog on so many levels. He was placed eventually in a pet home as it was determined he was a PRA carrier. It crushed me, but it also taught me a valuable responsible dog show lesson: Remove a dog from a program when you feel it is not contributing genes that enhance our breed.

Right after I finished showing Michael, Marge and Chris offered us another girl, Ch Balnamores Gabriele CD, by Ch Tabatha's Drifter at Dickendall JH, out of Balnamores Ayla. I finished her as well, and we had two litters from her. Our first litter by Ch Guidelines Mastercard gave us a yellow boy, Ch Balnamores

American Xpress Gold CD. Tiger was my brother's dog, and man, did the dog know it. Ryan could walk through that door and Tiger would have eyes for no one else.

Our second litter was by Milton Of Little By Little. We only had two puppies and the boy stayed for a bit, but then went to be co-owned with Dr. Blair Jones, DVM. Billy was Blair's first

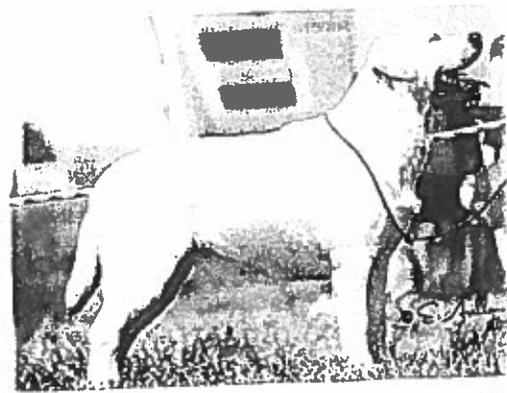


Edlyn Maidstone Barton Creek Count Your Cards

Champion, Ch Maidstone Balnamore Gunslinger.

Unfortunately none of the girls from Gabby worked out, and we didn't breed the boys back to any of the later girls in our program. Gabby did stay in the family with my uncle in Colorado until her passing at 14 1/2 years.

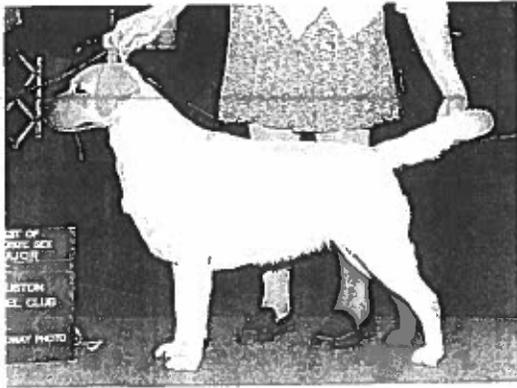
Molly singled out and was shown after her first litter, but we never seemed to grab those majors. It didn't make her any less of a girl for us, as we bred her again, this time to Ch Boradors Victory Hugo. From that litter we had a yellow "surprise" puppy, Maidstone Amen. Am didn't much like to show but she surely produced well for us. When bred to Ch Dickendall Ruffly we had Ch Maidstone Fiftythree At Dickendall CD JH, who was sold to Brenda Bridges a great black male who was a natural in all venues. I also co-owned with the late Michael Parsons Ch Maidstone Bluffdale Foxfire. Fred wasn't finished at the time of



GCh Edlyn Maidstone Vision of Sugarplums Barton Creek, "Palin"

continues

Maidstone, cont'd



GCh Edlyn Maidstone Ready To Rhumba To Ironore

Michael's passing, but we always told Michael that we would finish his boy. Fred earned his last major under Liz Muthard and it was Bluffdale's final champion.

While we were showing these two boys we had two very lovely girls we were also showing: I had Ch Pucketts Ms Alfie, bred and co-owned with Maxine Puckett and later Brenda Bridges, and mom had Ch Dickendall Buckstone Lemonade, Harriet. Alfie was a sweet black girl who won a LOT of firsts for us again. Alfie and I earned multiple BISS, Group 1 and placings, and the honor of the #1 Lab bitch in 2002, completely owner-handled. It was quite an honor and I think of her often.

While I never had any Alfie babies to continue on with in our program, I did



Ch Maidstone Edlyn Lemon Zest JH RN

ask Linda Ciancio at Greater Denver if I could buy her Ch Pucketts Andre At Dickendall's (Alfie's full littermate) yellow puppy girl. Oh boy, oh boy was she a DOLL! Linda told me no--this was her keeper. After some changes had occurred in my personal life, Linda knew I still wanted an Andre puppy to have something related to Alfie. She called me up out of the blue and asked if I still wanted to buy that yellow girl. Of course I said YES!

This girl wasn't named, but I knew coming to Texas was big for her! She ended up being called Robin, and we registered her as Brooks Flyway EM Spirit Of Texas.

Robin was my girl and lived with me and my Schnauzers, Torie and Patty, in my apartment. When I got her I thought, oh no, she isn't that cute yellow girl! But we gave her time and she grew up to be an important part of our breeding program. Robin finished before she was two years old, earned titles on both ends (CH and RN), and her first litter was born in October 2006 by Ch Dickendall Dayaron Gable. This was a beautiful litter and we kept one girl, Ch Edlyn Maidstone Lowood Misfit CD, Marilyn, co-owned with Shannon Gage. Marilyn didn't like to show in the beginning, but I will say Jayson Moore and my mom had her perfectly trained for the 2007 National

Specialty. Marilyn and I won both the regular and sweeps class and took the honor of Best Puppy under Connie Barton. Marilyn was bred to Ch Tullamore Toblerone, who gave us Ch Edlyn Maidstone Visions Of Sugarplums At Barton Creek, co-owned with Karl and Danna Hancock. Palin was a fun girl to show and went RWB and best bred-by under Sally Bell at DFWLRC, and most recently Select Bitch at HOTLRC shown by Danna. Our Palin puppies by Ch Wits End Jacks Or Better At Blackwing are



GCh Maidstone Edlyn Naeco Clownfish JH

also doing well. Edlyn Maidstone Barton Creek Count Your Cards has a 4-point major, earned under breeder-judge Linda Vaughn, out of the 6-9 month class. More recently she won her class under Elizabeth Bowren at HOTLRC 2014.

Robin's second litter, by Ch Brooks Take A Dare, was one of those litters you hope you only experience once. Robin contracted a very bad uterine infection and the puppies had to be removed immediately. I was worried we would lose her, but she bounced back with antibiotic therapy. Out of that litter we have one girl, Ch Edlyn Maidstone Ready To Rhumba To Ironore--a nicely balanced girl who has allowed Cole to learn how to show a dog! We look forward to bringing out her daughter, Apple, who is a daughter of Fred, Ch Maidstone Bluffdale Foxfire.

Harriet was our yellow princess who carried the toy and grunted wherever we went. She finished her CD at all specialties, won at both specialties and all breed shows and even has a group 2 placement to her credit.

Harriet was bred first to Trendmaker's Tycoon, and this gave us our first homebred BISS, Ch Maidstone Edlyn Itty Bitty. She was shown at the

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Maidstone, cont'd

National and won her class, but wasn't exactly what we were looking for to keep, so we shared her with some great friends, Candice and Jayson Moore.

When Itty went to Shawnee Mission for the specialty, it was the same year Jayson and Candice experienced Hurricane Rita as it hit the Houston coastline. Candice was disappointed she didn't get to come with us, but instead told me, "Well, just go win it all." Little did she know that we would bring home our first BISS Champion! Itty was bred to Ch Dickendall Buckstone Zane. Mom and I took a boy from that litter who is GCh Maidstone Edlyn Naeco Clownfish. Nemo was shown to his championship by a 10-year-old daughter of a college friend of mine. Nemo and Ashley did well and even earned group placements. Cheri Bates in Pottsboro trained and titled him to his JH. More recently, Nemo visited Sonja Czajor for a period of time. He has a young daughter in Poland who is doing well. After his return, Nemo has received Best Veteran in Sweeps and multiple Awards of Merit at specialties.

Itty's second litter was by Ch Buttonwood Stonecliff Tru Grit. We kept another boy with Jayson and Candice, Nick. Nick was a funny boy that just kind of "hung around". The longer Nick stayed the more we all liked him. Nick



Ch Tamerlane Maidstone Edlyn Top Hat

finished under breeder-judge Carl Leipmann in our hometown, Houston. The four of us made a pact to have this boy be finished from BBE, not only for us, but for Itty. Happy to say, we accomplished that goal as well. Itty's final litter was by Ch Waifins Fly Cabot To Tomgat.

Again, we kept a boy (are we crazy?). This boy is Ch Tamerlane Maidstone Edlyn No Way Jose, co-owned with Ossie Outlaw. Jose was the first dog we ever took to Potomac to show out of our own breeding program. I think, when I called Candice and mom, they thought something very bad had happened as I couldn't speak. It wasn't that at all! Jose and I won the Bred-By Yellow class at Potomac. It was an honor I cannot describe.

Harriet was only bred one more time and that was to Ch Tabatha's Burly. I can honestly say this litter was the hardest we ever had in deciding what to keep. There were 11 puppies, and between Kendall Herr and us, we held back seven to grow out.

When everything was sorted out, in the end we had Ch Maidstone Edlyn Lemon Zest JH, and Ch Maidstone Edlyn Lemon Tart. Both of these girls did their fair share of winning for us.

Zest had multiple Best Puppy in Specialty wins and Tart won Best of Opposite in sweeps. It was unfortunate that we do not have any offspring to continue on with these beautiful girls.

At this point all we had were yellows...it was just the way the cards fell. If you were to ask both of us what our ideal image was of a Lab, it was black.



Can Ch Maidstone Edlyn Ode To Mandalay Bay

We were constantly on the lookout for a black girl to add to our house. We were lucky enough to add three to our breeding program. Linda Ciancio offered us a black girl who went on to be Ch Brooks Sunshine Times A'Wastin JH RN June was bred to Ch Tullamore Toblerone, and we have one yellow girl, Edlyn Maidstone Brooks Smarties, who needs a major to finish. We also were able to get the lovely Sheabournes Cest Si Bon, bred by Shannon Carlton. Cesi has been shown a few times, but would rather be on our couch chilling. She has placed and won specialty classes, but just wasn't meant to finish. We have a lovely daughter of hers we are growing out by



Ch Brooks Sunshine Times A'Wastin JH

continues

Maidstone, cont'd

Ch Forsythes Playboy. Ch Glacieridge Tabatha's Giddy came to us from Bob Skow a year ago. We just finished her with a Best of Breed from the classes and hope to have a litter by her soon.

Mom and I had always wanted a chocolate. Bob and Barb Kossieck sent us another girl, chocolate, in 2003, but we never could get her in whelp. So with our thinking caps on, we asked Sue Willumsen if she had any chocolate girls. Sue didn't know me from Adam, but sent us a chocolate girl puppy. I hadn't seen any photos of her prior to picking her up. I remember my mom saying, "We are picking up a puppy you have never seen? Are you crazy?" Well, as luck would have it, Tequila became my mom's dog! Tequila, Ch Willcare Edlyn Texas T At Maidstone CD JH, was a difficult girl to show, but loved my mom. She would do anything for her; yet you know what she did for me in the show ring? Yup, gave me the bird. Ask any spectator.

Tequila was bred to Ch Willcare Leisure Suit Larry for her first litter. We placed a boy in a pet home. This boy had to have been one of the ugliest puppies I have ever seen in my life. I tell you, no joke, when I said he was so ugly I wouldn't let people take photos of him at 6, 7, and 8 weeks. Well, maybe a head

shot, but that was it. Amazingly enough he came back to us to board and we thought, wow, what happened to this ugly duckling! Boscoe, Maidstone Edlyn O Bama (as in Alabama football!) won two Bests of Opposite in sweeps. He never did finish. However, he taught us to reevaluate puppies all the time, not just at the times we think the may look good. One of the boys went to Brazil, Maidstone Edlyn Open Range, Ranger, where he has been influential in several breeding programs.

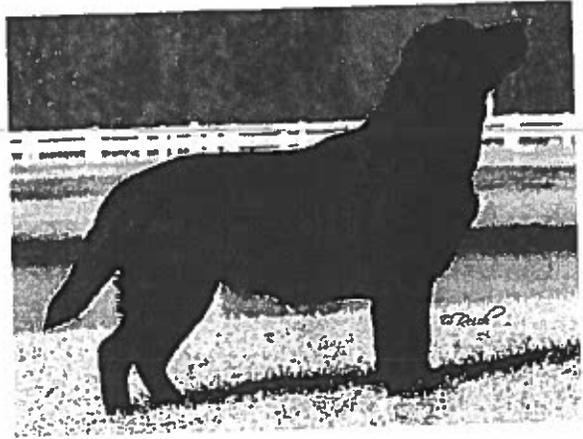
Also from this litter is Can Ch Maidstone Edlyn Ode To Mandalay Bay, co-owned with our friend, Brian Murray.

For Tequila's second litter we sent her to our friend Heidi Kellerman to do live cover with her boy, Ch Ravenhills Sir Winston. We kept a chocolate girl with Heidi and Carolyn from this litter and she finished quickly: Ch Maidstone Edlyn Uptown Girl At Harbor Run.

Diane and Erin:

We were fortunate that, early on, we were befriended by members of the dog fancy who not only taught us about structure, breed type, the ins and outs of the dog show world, but took an interest in us as individuals who were eager to learn.

Our breeding program isn't due to just us, but due to the knowledge shared with us by others. We wouldn't be where we are now without the encour-



Sheabournes Cest Si Bon

agement, teaching, and support of the late Henry McGill, professional handler; Shirley Reynolds, Far Hills Miniature Schnauzers; Marge and Chris Hutchins, Balnamore Labradors; Linda Ciancio, Brooks Labradors; the late Dr. Michael Parsons, Bluffdale Labradors; and Kendall Herr, Dickendall Labradors.

Many know that I (Diane) work in healthcare. In my office I have a few pictures hanging of the dogs, and am frequently asked what makes me want to show a dog. Without exception, I say, "It's not just the dogs, it's the people we have met and continue to meet along the way, who rejoice with us, give comfort to us when there is sorrow, not just with the dogs, but with us as people. And all for the love of the Labrador Retriever.

LQ



Ch Tamerlane Maidstone Edlyn No Way Jose



Ch Maidstone Fiftythree At Dickendall CD JH