

Sherry Washburn's Golden Retriever History

Sherry's parents raised German Shepherd Dogs for more than 35 years, and Sherry decided she wanted to continue with a smart breed that was easy to work with. Once established in her own home, Sherry called their old breeder who suggested getting a Golden Retriever, since he had retired and didn't know of any shepherds with similar characteristics.

Sherry started going to dog shows and found a male Golden she loved. Luckily he had been bred to a female from Weston, MA. So Brenda Wood sold Sherry her first Golden Retriever, and she was off on a new adventure.

Sherry joined YANKEE GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB in 1974. YANKEE was then a fairly small club; meetings were held at Ann Houston's house. Around that time, the Breeder Referral Service was started, because many people, looking for puppies, had lots of questions but little information about where to go to find a reputable breeder. The program started with four representatives in various geographical areas so people did not have to make long distance phone calls. Sherry volunteered to be one of the four. (By the way, with the inception of cell phones, there are now only two breeder referral volunteers – Barb Lukis and Sherry.)

Shortly after the start of breeder referral, Sherry also became YANKEE's treasurer. Over the years she has judged WC/WCX and junior hunt tests, helped with field classes and puppy kindergarten, and volunteered at hunt tests, tracking, and hospitality.

Since 1974, Sherry has bred and trained Golden Retrievers under the kennel name of *Landmark*, earning titles both in the US and Canada in conformation, field, obedience, tracking, rally, nosework, and barn hunt. You can see her name listed multiple times on the *Bliss Glazebrook Versatile Golden Retriever Trophy*.

Sherry raised and trained the first Golden Retriever bitch to the title of Master Hunter Upland Advanced ("Quinn" – SHR *Pebwin Landmark's Grand Prix*) and the first champion Golden Retriever bitch to get her Master Hunter Upland Advanced title ("Keeper" – SHR Am/Can CH *Wochica Ar-Kel Landmark's MVP*). She also trained the second champion Golden Retriever bitch to get her JH, in the first 4 tests ever run in this area in the 1980s. Sherry bred one of the first bitches to win the hunting retriever class at the GRCA National Specialty and then to go on to get a first JAM behind the best of breed bitch ("Morgan" – Am/Can CH *Landmark's City Slicker*, WCX, SH).

Last year Quinn suffered a shoulder injury, which continued to be troublesome. This prompted Sherry to start training her dogs in nose work and barn hunt, working towards titles in both, and she hopes to start rally soon. Keeper passed away this past August of hemangiosarcoma at age 11. Sherry is currently looking for a new puppy to raise and train.