City Doe Park

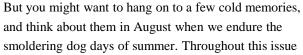
Newsletter

Spring

April 2014

Well, it's a wrap for our seventh season. With the amount of snow and cold weather we have had this year – it is probably safe to say most of us are thrilled to get to the warm stuff – even if it also means "Spring Break" at the dog park..

President's Message



we have provided ideas of things to do or events to attend, including five activities offered as meet up opportunities for our members – nice venues to see dog park friends. Get creative, explore – there really are plenty of things to do with your 4-Legged. And let us know about your adventures – we are always looking for fun or interesting stories for our newsletter.

SWCDP Activities Around Town

April 19 Broemmelsiek Dog Park, Swim & Romp

May 9 Tower Grove Park, Food Truck Friday

May 17 Forest Park, Bark in Park – Fun Walk

May 24 Broemmelsiek Dog Park, Swim & Romp

June 13 Tower Grove Park, Food Truck Friday



If you haven't visited other city and county parks – you should treat yourself and your canine pal. Also, did you know there are almost 25 miles of walkways within 5 miles of the dog park? Check out Great Rivers Greenway. http://www.greatriversgreenway.org/

Last issue, Predatory Drift – this issue, Bloat. Please read and more importantly, take time to view webinar. Bloat kills 220,000+ annually, and it is not just deep-chested dogs. Please get educated with the latest information; much of earlier studies has been significantly updated.

Our "SWCDP Stars" section debuts in this issue and will be an ongoing feature. We want to give recognition to 4-Legged members who have earned the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) designation. The test is only 10



Dobie Girl

directives, centered around base-level manners and self control. While CGC is not mandatory, having your dog under voice control, and basic manners, is a City Ordinance and SWCDP rules. Spring Break, as well as year round, is a good time to work towards this

designation – and testing is only ten bucks (July 12).



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Warmest Regards Judi & Willow

willow.nic07@yahoo.com





Our 4-Leggeds Are Lucky Dogs!

Our SWCDP doggie members are indeed – lucky dogs.

As we wrap up another successful and fun dog park season, we ask our members to **pay it forward**. We invite you to join us in another worthy community project – and help us make things just a little bit better for a few not-so-lucky canines.

SWCDP Community Project

SWCDP Bark In Park Team

WHO IS RUNNING / SPONSORING THIS EVENT?

Purina One has partnered with Humane Society of Missouri, and will head up the primary elements of the event. Other corporate sponsors may also participate.

WHAT IS THIS EVENT ALL ABOUT?

The largest dog festival and fund raiser in the Midwest, this is the 21st year. A fund raising goal of \$200,000 is set; all funds will support the activities and services of HSMO, a non-profit organization. HSMO does not receive any local, state, federal, or United Way funding. **Bark in the Park** is a critical source of income for HSMO.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES?

Net proceeds go to the Human Society of Missouri, for all operating expenses and heavy focus on the HSMO Animal Abuse Task Force.

WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

Our doggies are safe, healthy, happy and loved. If you are in a position to donate even \$5.00 – you can help make a difference. To participate in the walk, there is a \$35 entry fee. Wouldn't you feel good about using a few bucks of your discretionary dollars to help save a life – and increase a 4-Leggeds chance for a happy life – a second chance?

HOW TO GET INVOLVED? Click this link . . .

http://member.hsmo.org/site/TR/Events/BarkinthePark?px=1948157&pg=personal&fr id=1100

You and your 4-Legged can join the 1 Mile Fun Walk (\$35), you can donate money without walking (any amount), you can generate additional funds by asking people you know to either sponsor your walk, or ask them to also sign up to walk on the Southwest City Dog Park Team. You do not need to be a SWCDP member to be on the SWCDP Bark in the Park team.



Cricket Field
Forest Park
Saturday, May 17

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

SWCDP Team Goal \$500

> Can we meet it Can we beat it

Check it out.

What to do on Spring Break

APRIL ACTIVITIES

SWCDP will be closed for annual renovation from April 1 to early June. Opening Day to be announced, pending Mother Nature's wishes.



Ongoing activities at Purina Farms Event Center, Gray Summit, MO

http://www.purinafarms.com/event-calendar

Date	Activity and Location	Details
M-F 11:00am-7:00pm Sa 9:00am-5:00pm Su 11:00am-4:00pm	Pawsitively Fintastic 5600 Eichelberger at January www.pawsitivelyfintastic.com	Free Play Area – Open Daily Use PF's small fenced playground for a solo play or arrange play dates with friends.
Wednesday 5:30pm – 7:30pm April 9	Decoding Your Dog, book signing Meet Debra Horwitz, DVM Humane Society of MO www.hsmo.org	Dr Horwitz is nationally recognized Animal Behaviorist, with a StL practice. Our GMM Guest Speaker, Amy Pike, DVM, also a Behavioral Specialist at Dr. Horwitz practice
Saturday 10:00am-1:00pm April 12	Missouri Earthdog Fun Day Purina Farms Event Center, Gray Summit http://www.moearthdogs.org/funday s.htm	Free to watch, \$5 members, per dog \$10 non-members, per dog Go-to-ground tunnels and racing
Saturday 12:45pm –1:45pm April 12	Easter Egg Hung - Three Dog Bakery 1208 Town & Country Crossing Drive http://www.threedogstl.com/easter- fun-at-three-dog-bakery/	\$5 admission to benefit Dirks Fund Golden Retriever Rescue 2,000 eggs with treats and coupons
Saturday Noon start April 12	Doggie Easter Egg Hunt Fox Creek Veterinary Hospital, Wildwood http://foxcreekveterinaryhospital.com/events/4th-annual-doggie-easter-egg-hunt/	Free admission, donations accepted for Open Door Sanctuary. Find treats, get photo with Easter Bunny.
Wednesday, 9:00am-11:00am April 15	Hiking with Rover Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit http://www.missouribotanicalgarde n.org/things-to-do/events/event-details/sreventid/895.aspx	1-2 mile hike Led by Shaw Nature Reserve staff \$6 MoBot members \$9 non-members
Saturday 8:30am-10:30am April 19	Broemmelsiek Dog Park Off Schwede Rd, Wentzville http://parks.sccmo.org/parks/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4&Itemid=17	SWCDP EVENT Meet dog park friends-free dog park, pond with diving dock, 2.5 acres fenced. On site restroom and pavilion. Excellent venue, lots of room for lots of play.
Thursday 6:30pm-8:30pm April 24	Yappy Hour - West Francis Park Eureka Parks & Recreation http://www.eureka.mo.us/visitors/special-city-wide-events/yappy-hour/	Social time for well behaved canines. Free admission, refreshments for sale, coolers welcome (no glass), Live entertainment by local band.
Sunday 9:00am April 27	Fast & Furriest – Animal Protection Assoc Tower Grove Park http://www.apamo.org/Home.aspx? ContentID=108091	APA annual 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk – fund raiser. \$35 entry fee for walk – or just visit Tower Grove Park and enjoy the festivities. April 2014 Page 3

What to do on Spring Break

MAY ACTIVITIES

SWCDP will be closed for annual renovation from April 1 to early June. Opening Day to be announced, pending Mother Nature's wishes.



Saint Louis All Dogs Ongoing Activities – Walks around town, day trips, and more http://www.stlalldogs.com/

Date	Activity and Location	Details
M-F 11:00am-7:00pm Sa 9:00am-5:00pm Su 11:00am-4:00pm	Pawsitively Fintastic 5600 Eichelberger at January www.pawsitivelyfintastic.com	Free Play Area – Open Daily Use PF's small fenced playground for a solo play or arrange play dates with friends.
Friday 4:00pm – 8:00pm May 9	Food Truck Friday Tower Grove Park www.saucemagazine.com/foodtruckfriday.php	SWCDP EVENT Meet your SWCDP friends; settle in with your pooch for a nice experience. 20+ food truck gathering, music. Bring chairs-blankets; dogs on leash. Arrive early, easier parking.
Saturday, 9:00am-1:00pm May 17	Bark in the Park Cricket Field, Forest Park http://member.hsmo.org/site/TR/Events/BarkinthePark?px=1948157&pg=personal&fr_id=1100	SWCDP EVENT A SWCDP community project – we have a team for 1-Mile Fun Walk, register for walk or general donations. Or, just hang out and enjoy the day for free.
Friday 8:30am – 10:30am May 16	Yappy Nite Walk at Queeny Park 1721 South Mason Road https://reserve.stlouisco.com/RecDy namicsWeb/Activities/Search.aspx	St Louis County sponsored, Ranger led night walk – 4 mile stroll around park. Advanced registration required. \$5.00
Saturday May 17	Meet Canine Celebrities AKC Museum of the Dog, Queeny Park http://www.threedogstl.com/compa ny-pawticulars/events/	Sponsored by Three Dog Bakery, free admission and dog treats. Say hello to Jose & Romeo, who starred in Legally Blonde
Friday, May 23 Saturday, May 24 Sunday, May 25	Memorial Day Bark Missouri Earthdogs http://www.moearthdogs.org/funday s.htm	A weekend of activities Check website for times/ details
Saturday 8:30-10:30am May 24	Broemmelsiek Dog Park Off Schwede Rd, Wentzville http://parks.sccmo.org/parks/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4&Itemid=17	SWCDP EVENT Meet dog park friends-free dog park, pond with diving dock, 2.5 acres fenced. On site restroom and pavilion. Excellent venue, lots of room for lots of play.
Friday June 13	Food Truck Friday Tower Grove Park See above (May 9) for details	SWCDP EVENT Meet your SWCDP friends - a nice experience.

Set up play dates with your dog park friends

Backyard Meet-Ups and Shared Walks

EXPLORE SAINT LOUIS – Check out parks, trails, and area events

Secretary Report

By Joan L (Rusty, Casey, Bisky, Caika)

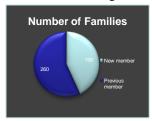




Closing Out the Season

As we wrap up the 2013-2014 Season, here is what our membership numbers looked like. As in seasons past, we continued to pick up new members through February.

As of February 28, 2014, we had **655** 4-Leggeds which are in **458** memberships. There were 198 new members and 260 returning members.



General Membership Meeting May 14, 2014

Buder Elementary School Cafeteria

Mark Your Calendars

Details will be sent you in early May

Bordetella Vaccine Required

Per the member vote at the 2013 GMM – a current Bordetella vaccine will be a requirement for SWCDP membership for the 2014-2015 Season. This is an addition to the regular requirements as listed on your previous application.

Dog Park Closes March 31, 10:00pm

Applications for the new dog park year will be sent around the middle of April. They will be sent by email if you have a computer, if not they will be sent by snail mail. I urge everyone to update their email address before April, if your email address has changed. Please include spouse or roommate in the second name field, if applicable. Please include their email address. Dog tags and gate code will be sent to everyone that has turned in an application before we reopen.

Till next time . . .

Woof, Woof, Woof

Joan L

(Rusty, Casey, Bisky, Caika)

secretary.swdogpark@gmail.com



Change of P O Box

You will receive a new application for the 2014-2015 Season. Please be aware that all mail should be sent to our new po box:

P O Box 191152 St Louis, MO 63119







What is a Veterinary Behaviorist?

A veterinary behaviorist is first, and foremost, a veterinarian. They have graduated from an accredited veterinary school and passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE) or equivalent as well as the licensing examination in the state in which they practice or hold licenses. To maintain their veterinary license in each state, they are required to attend annual Continuing Education (CE) in the field of veterinary medicine. Secondly, a board certified veterinary behaviorist (Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists) has completed an approved Residency or Specialty Training Program (3-5 years in duration) in the field of Veterinary Behavior has published a peer reviewed paper, submitted and passed 3 case reports and passed the two day certifying board examination. Veterinary behaviorists are qualified to diagnose and treat behavior problems, including performing physical exams, diagnostic testing and prescribing medication.

http://www.dacvb.org/

How does a Veterinary Behaviorist differ from a dog trainer?

Veterinary Behaviorists are veterinarians who are knowledgeable in all aspects of animal behavior. They are required to stay current on the most recent scientific findings through research and attending and presenting at professional continuing education meetings. Good trainers have knowledge of behavior, but not at the depth or breadth that is expected of a Veterinary Behaviorist.

While a trainer may teach an animal to perform certain actions in response to a command, obedience training does not usually get to the root cause of a behavioral issue or solve the behavioral problem. Be aware that some training techniques are considered questionable and inhumane in their approach.

Southampton Neighborhood Association has been our dog park sponsor since the first season. We thank the volunteers at SNA for their continued support and encouragement.



Upcoming Newsletters

Have you lost a beloved canine?

Do you have an interesting story, a fun or unusual experience? A bit of news?

Has your 4-Legged earned any special awards or learned any new skills, tricks, certifications?

Is there a topic you would like to see featured in the newsletter?

Send to:

willow.nic07@yahoo.com



Macklind Inspired Wedding

Julie & Brett M had a beautiful wedding on January 11, 2014 - and sweet Macklind inspired the fun black & white theme .

Left Photo: Wedding morning, Macklind knew something was up and needed special kisses and reassurance from Julie.

Dogs Everywhere

Since Macklind couldn't attend the wedding, Julie made sure black dogs were well represented: Stuffed dogs walking down aisle and top of cake.

hat's under Julie's dress

Canine Good Citizen

A little self-control and manners!

All of the exercises are done on a leash

Test 1: Accepting a friendly stranger

The dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.

Test 2: Sitting politely for petting

The dog will allow a friendly stranger to pet it while it is out with its handler.

Test 3: Appearance and grooming

The dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner, to do so.

Test 4: Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead)

The handler/dog team will take a short "walk" to show that the dog is in control while walking on a leash.

Test 5: Walking through a crowd

The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three) to demonstrate that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places.

Test 6: Sit & down on command and staying in place

The dog will respond to the handler's commands to 1) sit, 2) down and will 3) remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers).

Test 7: Coming when called

The dog will come when called by the handler. The handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog.

Test 8: Reaction to another dog

To demonstrate that the dog can behave politely around other dogs, two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10 ft.

Test 9: Reaction to distraction

To demonstrate the dog is confident when faced with common distracting situations, the evaluator will select and present two distractions. Examples of distractions include dropping a chair, rolling a crate dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, or dropping a crutch or cane.

What's Under Julie's Wedding Dress?



Well, Doggie Shoes, Of Course!

Test 10: Supervised separation

This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners. Evaluators are encouraged to say something like, "Would you like me to watch your dog?" and then take hold of the dog's leash. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes.



Let your -- Legged be the best he can be - Earn the CGC!

For details regarding equipment, expanded descriptions of the exercises above, and how the CGC Test is administered, see:

http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/training_testing.cfm

Canine Good Citizen

Testing & Training Offered By:

Greater St Louis Training Club http://gsltc.org/

Humane Society of Missouri http://www.hsmo.org

Testing & Training Location

1201 Macklind Avenue St. Louis, MO 63110 (314) 951-1562

Upcoming CGC Training

\$100 - Five Classes
Saturday, May 31, 4:00pm
Starting date

Upcoming CGC Testing

Only Ten Bucks
Saturday, July 12, 1:00pm

Formal training is not required – and often not necessary. You may prepare your dog on your own and at your own pace. If your dog fails the test, you may retry as often as you like – it's only ten bucks. The tester will help you focus on the areas needing improvement. There are also numerous trainers around Metro area to assist you, if you need help.



Meet Dr Horowitz

Nationally recognized animal behaviorist with STL practice

April 9

Wednesday, 5:30-7:30pm Humane Society MO 1201 Macklind

Veterinary Behavior Consultations

April 2014 ... Page 8



While not a SWCDP requirement . . .

stis an awesome



Your canine depends on you to set the tone and the standards for a good life.
No doubt, or hopefully,
YOU are the leader of your pack. Your doggie pal will be happier, safer & more content, and be welcomed more places if he knows what is expected and what the rules are. What is ok, what is not ok, We are

not talking about competitive obedience trials or dog sports with CGC – just simple manners with a drop of self control.

It's a good thing!

SWCDP Stars



Canine Good Citizens

Bisky, Golden Retriever – 2013 (Human: Joan L)

Coach, Dutch Shepherd – 2013 (Human: Lynn W)

King, Husky/Shepherd – 2013 (Human: Bob H)

Maggie, Border Collie – 2011 (Human: Susan B)

Willow, Doberman – 2011 (Human: Judi N)

We know there are more of you – where are you?

Let your 4-Legged be the best
he can be – Earn the CGC!

Join the SWCDP Stars

SWCDP Stars will be an ongoing newsletter feature

4-LEGGED VACCUM

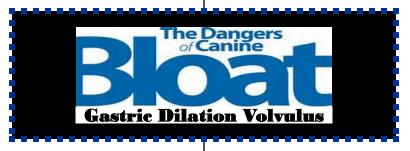


My Willow gulps her food – the kibble rarely touches her molars - she swallows everything with

The Gulper

great gusto...not sure how she manages to enjoy the meal much less savor the flavor. Her ravenous eating habits have always been a constant worry. I knew that deep chested breeds were especially vulnerable to bloat – and my Willow is one chesty girl – but other than that, I was only mildly aware of bloat. Coach's human, Lynn W, shared that her friend's dog just died from bloat; Joan L, our Secretary, has personal experience with dog's bloating - and this pushed me to further research and making an action plan to protect my girl. I think it important that ALL members be educated – and on alert for signs. The fatality stats are extremely high, and bloat can kill extremely fast. But the good news is if you know the symptoms, and get your dog to a Vet Hospital quickly there is an 80% survival rate for dogs who are otherwise in good health.

Catching bloat early is the key



Cancer and bloat are the top killers of canines. Even with ongoing research – the actual cause of bloat is still not known. There is a lot of info out there – with much having been debunked by results of most recent research. Always discuss such topics with your Vet.

Profile

- Genetics (family history of bloat)
- · Anatomy (deep chest)
- Stress (unfamiliar locations, etc)
- **Personality** (anxious, nervous)
- Age (older dogs more likely)

Symptoms

- Restlessness
- · Unsuccessful vomiting
- · Extreme salivation
- · Distended stomach

See dog with bloat symptoms - video http://bloatindogs.com/

The dog had successful surgery; is fine.

What is bloat?

Gas and/or food stretches the stomach many times its normal size, causing tremendous abdominal pain. The grossly distended stomach tends to rotate, thus twisting off not only its own blood supply but the only exit routes for the gas inside. Organs can get damaged; tissue can die.

What must be done?

Immediately

- Decompress stomach
- · Rapid IV fluids, reverse shock
- · Stabilize heart rhythm

Surgery

To determine damage and repair organs, surgery is required once dog is stabilized.. Gastroplexy may be performed (tacking stomach to body wall) to eliminate chance of recurrence. This tacking procedure is also recommended at time of spay/neutering, preventative measure for pups in the high risk genetics or anatomy groups.

Nifty Product to Slow Down the Gulpers Slo-Bowl, by Kyjen

Judi N

Feeding solution for dogs that gobble their kibble. Nature-inspired designs promote natural eating habits by requiring dogs to forage for their feasts. With a prolonged feeding time - dogs quickly learn to "chase" their food through the maze of ridges and valleys, making dinnertime feel more like hunt.



Your local source for Kyjen or other slow feeding bowls . . .

GET ONE TODAY



5600 Eichelberger Street 314/353-1411

www.pawsitivelyfintastic.com

Bloat Webinar

Worth your 40 minutes

Presented by AKC Canine Health Foundation which issues grants for ongoing canine health research, including bloat. September 19, 2013

Dr. Elizabeth Rozanski

Board-Certified Specialist in Emergency Medicine and Critical Care and Professor at the Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

http://www.akcchf.org/newsevents/multimedia/video/bloat.html

One More Reason To Attend GMM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Final details will be sent early May

BRING YOUR APPLICATION & CHECK PICK UP YOUR NEW SEASON TAG

GMM

General Membership Meeting Wednesday May 14, 2014

Buder Elementary School Cafeteria

Guest Speaker Amy L. Pike, DVM

Veterinary Behavior Consultations

Dr. Pike graduated from Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine And Biomedical Sciences in 2003. After graduation, she was commissioned as a Captain into the United States Army Veterinary Corps and was stationed at Fort Huachuca where she spent the next three years. There, Dr. Pike took care of 200 US Customs and Border Protection horses, 15 Military Working Dogs, ran a small animal clinic with over 4000 active patient files, and was the Director of the base's



stray animal and adoption facility. It was dealing with the Military Working Dogs that spurred her initial interest in behavior medicine.

After getting off of active duty in 2006, Dr. Pike then worked exclusively in small animal practice in Sierra Vista, Arizona where she furthered her love of behavior medicine by seeing cases and teaching Puppy Socialization classes for clients. Dr. Pike and her husband, a Major in the Army, were then stationed in the Washington DC area where she worked at the small animal clinic on Andrews Air Force base and took care of the Military Working Dogs attached to the President of the United States.

After only one year, the Pike family was then stationed in the Metro East area at Scott Air Force Base. Dr. Pike started seeing behavior referrals at Veterinary Behavior Consultants in August of 2011 and her residency has been officially approved by the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists.

Dr. Pike has had behavior articles published in numerous professional veterinary journals, including Clinician's Brief, Pet Quarterly, and The Team and was most recently featured in an interview on msn.com.

http://www.vbcstl.com/site/view/204574 Home.pml



Meet Dr. Pike's Pack

As far as canines go, Jackson & Nixon, passed away 2 years ago, were the "loves of my life", says Dr Pike. Her current pack includes Coopersmith (4), Scott Lynn (7), and Wilson (10). And Alexa and Grayson (April 23 they turn 6 & 1 respectively - same day).

A very busy household, indeed!



Jackson & Nixon

Coming to

Unlimited Play is an award winning nonprofit organization that builds universally accessible playgrounds to promote health and wellness while transforming communities by providing the freedom of play for ALL children and families.

www.unlimitedplay.org

St. Louis Office for Developmental Disability Resources (DD Resources) is a publicly funded agency that distributes funds to service providers for communitybased services to persons who have a developmental disability and desire to remain in their homes and community.

https://www.stldd.org/home.html











Alderman Larry Arnowitz; Mayor Francis Slay; Unlimited Play Founder, Natalie Blakemore

Donate Cash Want to help?

83% funded As of newsletter print date http://unlimitedplay.org/

Buy a Brick \$100

Have your name or message installed at playground; 3 lines, 12 spaces per line max.

Gus' Playground and Theresa's Splash Pad

Willmore Park will be the site of a hot air balloon and nature-themed playground; tentative opening in early June, 2014. Source of funds include \$300,000 from St Louis Developmental Disability Resources, \$200,000 from City of St Louis/Alderman Larry Arnowitz, \$1,400 from individual donations; Unlimited Play also has submitted grants for \$98,600. Check out Unlimited Play history on video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1js7Pre0PH8

O'Fallon Park will also be getting a playground with an aviation theme in 2014. Several innovative, fully accessible playgrounds have

sprung up in the Saint Louis Metro area, thanks to the tireless efforts, commitment, and enthusiasm of Unlimited Play and its partners.



Willow, King, Spencer, among other SWCDP 4-Leggeds attended the event

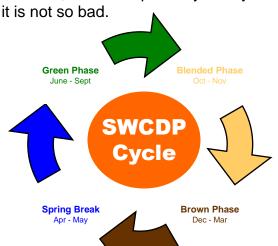
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Turf Report

Let's Face It . . .

We are going into 8th season, since 2006, having several iterations of board and management members as well as outside advise and input from our members. Every season, the same discussions abound – *what to do with the turf*. While we are not throwing up our hands – we do admit that pushing the turf management ball up the hill year after year is quite a push. The reality is: we beat the daylights out of the turf, we simply love it to death. And, some might say that reality bites. But then, if we accept reality – maybe it is not so had



Many area dog parks do not even attempt to grow grass – you will find bare dirt or other non-green surfaces. SWCDP has a 10 month dog park season, a 2 month Spring Break in which we retool the grounds and amenities in time for the next season.

We enjoy Green Phase Accept Blended Phase Endure Brown Phase



Turf Plan 2014-2015 Season

After 3 BIG DIGS, and many other dog park upgrades, we were concerned about over-working our member volunteers — so this year, we will use the same outside contractor we have used for many previous seasons. They will handle most of the start up work (tilling, filling/leveling sunken spots, seeding/strawing, fertilizing). To save money, we will rake our old straw but he will haul it away — and then we will rake the new stuff, as needed in May, as we spruce up the grounds for our season opening. Throughout the season, the contractor will cut and trim on a weekly basis during the growth period, and taper off to every other week in late summer — early fall. But we will do week-to-week monitoring and dealing with hot spots, all gardening, etc.

Additionally, we have several grounds improvements underway, including some tweaking of the pool pad areas, repairing agility equipment, replacing bag holders, and more. While the City installs the front entry, we will finally put in the Dog Wash path and a patio just inside the Alternate – both of which will be wheelchair accessible and in sync with the new entry area and ADA guidelines.

We may need some volunteer help, ad hoc, before or after the concrete is poured. If you wish to help – please get on Judi's Volunteer Call List – send her an email:

willow.nic07@yahoo.com

New Front Path on the Way

The St Louis City Parks Department has a large sidewalk project (for all parks) underway – and our dog park will benefit by getting a paved walkway at the curb and leading up to our front gate. SWCDP members know how slick and dangerous that front area is. We have attempted to find a solution for years – not an easy thing, since the specs must meet ADA guidelines – while taking the 57 inch fall from gate to curb into consideration. The design plans are underway – we should have a new front this summer – and possibly in time for the opening of our 2014-2015 season.

April 2014 ... Page 12

Let it grow Let i

Turf Report

Our Volunteers - Brown Phase Work

Preparing for our Green Phase

Thank You - SWCDP Volunteers. You Are the Best!

Winter Shelter
Stored til Nov

Piles and Piles

Straw going out – Dirt coming in





15 Yards Dirt

Meramec River basin, brown silty loam; Haymond & Wilbur soil formations; pulverized through a hammer mill and screening process this top soil will be used for filling holes, leveling sharp contours or dips in dog park.

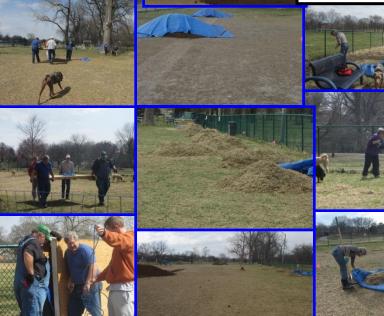


Mother Nature, in all her glory – is never much of a team player – and seems to enjoy going rogue, as it relates to our turf plans. As our newsletter is published, we are trying to dry out from 5+ inches rain in 48 hours and possible more rain Mon-Tues.

In between the wind and rain – on April 1 – our members worked hard to get grounds cleaned up and ready for tilling and seed planting. Our sprinkler system has been flushed out, repaired and is operational. We had 15 yards of top soil delivered and are awaiting a dry period so our outside contractor can haul off our old straw and begin the excavation and seed planting. And, for our volunteers to

continue with a variety of

tasks.





Elvis & Ron

Traveling buddies – always ready to go

SWCDP Volunteer for 8 Years!



Ron volunteered in the early days of our dog park to empty our trash cans & haul the bags and bags of dog poop and other trash to curb. He has handled this job with commitment

and amazing dedication. We never had to worry about overflowing cans – because we knew Ron was on the job. He has done so willingly, happily and without any compensation. This will be Ron's last year, as he is retiring from the volunteer task – although we hope he remains a SWCDP member. On behalf of SWCDP members, we gave Ron a \$100 gas card to help kick off his upcoming trip. **THANK YOU, RON!**

Spotlight SWCDP Volunteer



Fans of the Open Road

Ever seen a blue iceberg? Ron has. Ever taken an 8 hour ferry ride? Ron is about to...

Ron got the travel bug in his early twenties and has been to 47 states and Canada. Ron shared that his most memorable trip was his 74 day adventure in 2002 – destination - Alaska. As part of an RV travel group, they departed from Dawson Creek, British Columbia (which in itself was a 2400 mile drive from St. Louis). So much to see, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Valdez, Skagway. Ron's experience surpassed his expectations.

They encountered a rainy spell during the 4 days in Denali National Park but finally got to see Mount McKinley later from a 100 mile southern



vantage point. The boat ride from Valdez was breathtaking as they sought out the Columbia & Mears Glaciers and on the way back saw a spectacular blue iceberg.



A blue iceberg is visible after the ice from above the water melts, causing the smooth portion of ice from below the water to overturn. The rare blue ice is formed from the compression of pure snow, which then develops into glacial ice. Icebergs may appear blue due to light refraction and age. Older icebergs reveal vivid hues of green & blue, resulting from a high concentration of color, microorganisms, and compacted ice.



Continued next page . . .

Ron's adventure in the sky



Ron had a lot of fun hopping on an ultralight plane and seeing the sights close up.

In Fairbanks, Ron took a 2 hr tour on a D-3,; interior vintage 1946.

ARLOR



And then Skagway
Ron was pulled
from audience;
girls had fun with
him; Ron said
"longest twenty
minutes of my life"





http://www.king-ranch.com/

Home of 35,000 cattle and over 200 Quarter Horses, King Ranch is one of the largest ranches in the world today.

Elvis celebrated his 12th birthday in January and in June he and Ron will head out to North Eastern Canada. They will meet about 20 other motor homes in Bar Harbor, Maine. All kinds of gorgeous sights await them, plus a ferry to Newfoundland (8 hours over and 16 hours back), ending the tour in Cavendish on Prince Edward Island on Aug 3. The boys will be on the road for two months.

Ron bought his first RV in1999; it was a 28 ft Allegro Bay. Ron said traveling in a motor home gives him more opportunity to see "our beautiful country" and after that first RV trip was hooked. Ron enjoys traveling by motor home because "you can cook your own food and sleep in the same bed every night".

Ron's current RV, a 1999 Gulf Stream, is quite comfortable with a 32 foot slide out, full kitchen, queen size bed, sofa bed and full bath & shower. Owning it only for 3 years, Ron has already put 30,000 miles on the Gulf Stream. Ron shared that the greatest challenge for these long trips is coordinating "someone to take care of my house and pay my bills".

But – come June – Ron and Elvis will be equipped with their cell phone, maps, CB radio, a pantry of food and fresh linens – a full tank of gas – and will be on their way for another adventure.

Safe Travels . . .

Soapy Smith Vaudeville Show

Elvis moved in with Ron after Alaska – and to date – Elvis is getting ready for his 8th RV trip. Elvis rides in style – snuggled up on the sofa. Just like home, except Elvis gets to smell and see different things every time he steps out of the RV.

Remember these important contacts

Lost or Found Pets

http://www.stllostpets.org/

http://stlouis.craigslist.org/laf/

http://www.facebook.com/groups/STLMOlostfoundpaws/



finds Her Purpose



Meet Caika



Meet Bisky





Where's Joan?

We have not seen much of Joan L, SWCDP Secretary, the last 18 months or so. Many have wondered what she has been up to – besides handling all the never ending back office administration, bookkeeping, and membership tasks for the dog park. Well....

CAIKA: After caring for a very dear friend through 2012, she inherited the friend's free spirited German Shepherd, Caika. Caika, now 5 years old moved in with Joan's pack – and her training began. Bred from the German working lines, Caika, had to learn how to live in a pack and learn how to play nice – but most of all – Caika had to find a purpose because she is very intelligent and a bundle of energy. Joan has worked every single day with Caika. To date – here are her accomplishments:

BN Title – Beginner Novice

CD Title – Companion Dog

Temperament Test

1 leg toward her Novice Agility Title

BISKY: Bisky is the pack's baby, now 3 years old, she was adopted from Greater Golden Retriever Rescue at 4 months old. A bundle of play, this good natured girl also needed something to do, something to reign in her abundance of joy. Bisky has achieved the following:

CD Title - Companion Dog

CGC - Canine Good Citizen

2 legs toward her BN Title

* Both Caika and Bisky are currently training for Open and Agility



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Raffle Beads

We sold **\$115** of door prize raffles. Funds support Bob we raise \$ for Bark

H (King) walk as in Park. All raffle money goes to BinP fundraiser.



Lots of **Prizes**

Thank You Donors!



LOWE'S IMPROVING











Most of our door prizes were made possible by donations from these companies, beginning with a \$100 fire pit from Lowes, an advanced car wash package from Waterway, a case of wine for 12 dog park gifts, ongoing, from Constellation Brands, and finishing up With Hwy 61 Roadhouse sponsoring our Woofie Bingo and providing three restaurant gift certificates. **SWCDP** purchased the Musher's Secret with a discount from Pawsitively Fintastic, the dog park merchandise with a discount from **Tiny Little Monster**, and a Pedigree duffle bag, donated by **Joan L**, our SWCDP Secretary. SWCDP also gave a \$100 gas card as a special volunteer recognition gift to Ron D (Elvis, Boris) for taking care of our trash since the early days of the dog park.

Door Prize Winners



- Jerry S (Mabel)
- #2 Sloan C (Augie)
- #3 Rhonda?

(Paco, Jeter, Bella)

- Julie M (Macklind)
- # 5 Kay J (Cinnamon, Gus)
- #6 Ron D (Elvis, Boris)
- Joan S (Molly)

Fire Pit

Deluxe Car Wash

SWCDP Membership

Wine

Musher's Secret

SWCDP Shirt

Pedigree Bag

Big Winner

Jerry S (Mabel)

Bingo Winners

\$50 Hwy 61 Gift Certificate Brett M (Macklind)

\$25 Hwy 61 Gift Certificate Lissa J (Emma)

\$10 Hwy 61 Gift Certificate Bill K (Tyler, Sammy, Skit)

> SWCDP Shirt (tie winner) Julie M (Macklind)

Volunteers Make It Happen

Our dog park has room for all

It is not a requirement of membership to volunteer your time, we have room for all: those who only want to pay their annual membership fee and not get involved further; those who cannot offer time and talent but donate cash and goods for special projects; and those who contribute their time and energy in a variety of ways as a volunteer. And some who do it all.

We luv our volunteers!

To keep our dog park vibrant, active, and appealing to 2 & 4 Leggeds, we need ongoing help. If we don't do the work – it simply will not get done. We currently have several volunteers serving in a few of the areas below but we need more. By sharing tasks we can generate good synergy, fresh ideas, and ensure that no member becomes overloaded or burned out. The capital improvements and large-scale turf management upgrades will be completed this summer – but in order to continue with events similar to past seasons, expanded newsletters with member stories and photos, the proposed activities related to canine education, training, and/or sports, we simply need more help.

You can take on as small or as large a project as your skills, knowledge, and time allow. Rather than post specific jobs – we provide areas in which we could use the help – and we can discuss the possibilities with you, on a one-on-one basis. Contact Judi.

Will You Raise Your Hand?



If interested, send a note to Judi N (Willow) willow.nic07@yahoo.com

Newsletter

- · Write articles
- Manage event dates for "around town" calendar
- Take photos at SWCDP events
- Newsletter design & layout

SWCDP Merchandising

- Take orders & process orders
- Ensure members get orders when ready for pick up;
- · Sell merchandise at events.

Safety and Incidents

- · Check grounds for safety issues
- · Keep first aid & cleaning supplies stocked
- · Review and rule on incidents, complaints
- Keep watch list updated
- Notify or counsel members involved with bad behavior or incidents

On-Call for Work Crews

Be on call list for small to large work crews, as needed

Special Events

Social, Educational, Sports, Training

- Organize, plan, set up / tear down, and work events
- Use template for re-curing events, such as Kick-Off Weekend, Puppy Pool Party, Sunday is Funday, Swim & Romp at Broemmelsiek Park
- Point person with SWCDP Vet Sponsors, trainers and dog sports contacts, rescue groups, and Bi-State Pet Food Pantry
- Assist with GMM event, and more

Grounds and Turf Management

 $\underline{\textbf{Trash Management}} : \textbf{Empty cans, take to curb}$

Garden Upkeep: watering, weeding, etc

Walkways: repair or clean as needed, snow shovel

<u>Repairs</u>: fix fencing, agility equipment, other, as needed before we hire outside contractors

<u>Turf Management</u>: renovation and season start-up, ongoing care, including dealing with hot spots, mud closings

Special Projects

Rainbow Bridge



Gracie Allen



Sue fell in love with chocolate labs at an airport years ago after playing with a puppy on his way to Colorado. She especially liked touching his "amazing soft ears". When Sue was ready for some "grace" in her life – she set out to visit the Sho-Me-Labradors, a Lab breeder – just to see what might be possible. http://www.shomelabradors.com/shomelabs/homepage.jsp

And, it didn't take long for a cute puppy to adopt Sue; "her eyes and smile snagged me and we went home". Gracie was named in honor of the comedian and wife of George Burns and was only 8 weeks old when she attached herself to Sue. Gracie moved in with Sue – and 2 cats – and loved chasing the cats around the house; Gracie quickly became the leader of the pack. As a youngster, Gracie loved to chase snowflakes, or chase just about anything and would run off and do her own thing. But Gracie mostly enjoyed the attention of the humans and would be most content to be the center of attention. She loved to get petted and in return she gave great kisses.

Gracie thought car rides were over rated; in fact, cars made Gracie throw up a lot as a puppy, but in later life she learned to tolerate because there were always new people to meet, old friends to visit or new places to swim or explore.

Gracie had quite an active life but had both ACLs replaced with titanium plates & screws in each knee when she was 2.5 years old. The surgery provided great results until the last year and half at which point Gracie couldn't jump into car anymore and used an extra step for assistance.

Jake, a yellow Lab, joined the pack in 2002 and was young, energetic, and high strung; he had to be first out the door or walking in front and Gracie just let him. She was content to follow behind – they became very good pals. Gracie and Jake – **big water lovers!** If Gracie found a puddle, she would get right in it. They loved swimming at Lake of Ozarks, Meramec River, an occasional lake, and of course, the pools at the dog park. Gracie loved to shake the water off on Sue.

Gracie didn't like her crate much but had it pretty good – a lifetime of soft cushions in the living room and both bedrooms – or snuggling with Sue, Jake, or Colt, the cat. Gracie loved people – and people food, too.



Unfortunately, both Gracie and Jake got food and ear allergies. Gracie seemed to always have something going on with her ears between the infections and the hematomas she frequently got from shaking her head





and banging her ears on the table.

Gracie & Sue went everywhere together & were devoted to each other – unless Gracie got more attention from someone else, that is. Gracie had a great life and left Sue with many fond memories including a few furniture chew marks – Gracie kinda had a chew thing that she never really outgrew.

"Gracie was the best friend I ever had"

Sue recollects that Gracie liked wearing her winter sweater and making the rounds at the dog park. If she didn't get what she wanted – she went to the next person. Gracie always knew how to get Sue's attention – either by a physical nudge, eye ball guilt trip, or powerful vocals. Gracie always greeted Sue with a happy face – they were crazy about each other. Gracie loved to have her ears scratched or belly rubbed.

Gracie's Last Fun Ride

Gracie started getting a little senile, pacing thru the night; Sue knew the time had come. With assistance from Gavin



Hooks, DVM, one of SWCDP Vet Sponsors, Gracie passed over the Rainbow Bridge on February 4. Both Sue and Jake miss Gracie very much and she will always be in their hearts.



Halloween Costume Contest
Third Place Winner

\$15

Beatrice

Thank You



www.pawsitivelyfintastic.com



Spencer's Tip

If it is not your special day and you are at the store as an "extra" – the surest way to get a special treat is to just grab it – then

your human will have to buy it for you. Most days Beatrice swipes my food – this day, I am showing her the way.

Try it - it works!







Miss Beatrice liked her shopping spree & enjoyed the attention – and put up with the crazy human antics.



, TRAIIG

TRAILS, TRAILS, TRAILS

Check out area Parks & Trails

"Call of the Wild" - Yum!

St Louis City Parks

https://stlouis-

Donna, Bea, Spencer

mo.gov/government/departments/parks/parks/browse-parks.cfm

St Louis County Parks

http://www.stlouisco.com/ParksandRecreation/Trails

Missouri State Parks

http://mostateparks.com/page/57758/st-louis-region

Great River Greenway

http://www.greatriversgreenway.org/

Katy Trails



Halloween Costume Contest

Second Place Winner

\$25

Brody



pawsitively fintastic

www.pawsitivelyfintastic.com









Brody's humans bought the boys lots of treats and toys, but Brody took his celebrity in stride. He and Stuckey investigated every item and smell before picking which goodies to take home.

What a fun day!





We smell kitty cat





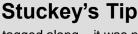


Home Sweet Home Brody - Happy Boy









I tagged along – it was not my special day - but oh so many smells and new things to check out. I lost my mind temporarily and

peed on a new toy. What's a human to do? They bought it for me and I got to take it home. Cool beans! True story, but only kidding about the "tip" - Please don't do what I did (even though it works!)



R U talkin' to me? I didn't do it



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Halloween Costume Contest First Place Winner

\$50

Coach

Thank You



www.pawsitiveiyiintastic.com



Coach says – Check out the <u>free playground</u> at Pawsitively Fintastic – drop in for a cookie or duck foot



Another One Down!



We hear all kinds of toy stories – not all dogs play with toys, some do not like to share toys, and others, well, can get carried away in the excitement of the play.

Rosie ate her rope toy, not on dog park grounds, but the end result was the same – a rush to the Vet clinic.

Please remember to throw away worn out toys and keep an eye on your doggie when they are playing with

Whaaat's up, dude? Been a long, hard winter!





Bye Bye, for now

In the meantime – there is lots to see around town - and it never hurts to practice manners or have a new experience to tell

Not to worry, our dog park will be green, clean, and beautiful in June.



Last Days of Season









