to be a strong collaborative team in breeding and raising Sunfire Golden Retrievers.

THE NAUGHTIEST PUPPY
Crediting Blowers’ ability to match the right dog to the right owner, Heidinger says, “She always sends me the naughtiest puppy.”

Tapper was one of the naughtiest puppies. Heidinger’s late husband, Joe, who had recently stopped judging obedience and had retired from showing, had wanted a male with a dark golden coat color to be his buddy. “I called Barbara and asked her to send a dog before he changed his mind,” she says. “That puppy was Tapper.”

Sadly, Joe Heidinger died six months later.

Many years before having Golden Retrievers, the couple had German Shepherds. Among her obedience stars, Heidinger put UP titles on bitches “Mitrie” and “Lacey.”

“Then, one day Joe brought home a Golden Retriever puppy,” Heidinger says. “The puppy came at the right time, as she was recovering from a mastectomy and was undergoing chemotherapy. After six months, Heidinger began battling an addiction to the chemotherapy drug.”

She named the puppy “Chemo.”

The uplifting determination and rallying strength that Chemo brought Heidinger is reflected in their accomplishments. NOC OTCH Meadowpond’s High On Chemo UDX19 OBHF won the first AKC National Championship in 1986, and became the third highest-rated Golden Retriever in obedience history. “Chemo helped me beat cancer and chemotherapy,” Heidinger smiles.

Heidinger’s obedience resume includes being the only person to have handled two different dogs to Top Obedience Dog of the Year, which she did with Tapper and Toasty. Her other noteworthy achievements are:

- 27 perfect 200 scores
- 627 High in Trials
- 722 plus High Combined Awards
- 22,395 OTCH points earned over her career
- This brings us back to Tapper. Through mid-March, he has tallied 3,875 career OTCH points. As Tapper and Heidinger take out again on the obedience circuit this year, she says, “My goal is to get him in the Top 25 of lifetime points among all breeds.”

Doing so would make him her third Golden in the Top 25, joining Toasty and Chemo.

A TRAINING TIP

Lynn Heidinger, of Tinley Park, Illinois, the owner-handler of “Tapper,” the Top Obedience Dog in the country in 2016 and 2017, offers a training tip: Try using your dog’s dry food, or kibble, as a training treat. Tapper is fed and trained with Purina Pro Plan FOCUS Sensitive Skin & Stomach Salmon & Rice Formula, a complete and balanced dog food made with real salmon as the No. 1 ingredient and natural prebiotic fiber to promote digestive health.

GRCA Job Opening!

Title: Statistician – Conformation

Committee of: One: Conformation Statistician

Committee type: Ongoing; appointed by GRCA Board

Contact Person: Provides information to Yearbook Editor

Provides information to Certificate Chairperson

Provides information to GRNews Editor

GRCA Equipment: None

Supplies Needed: AKC Digital Reports***

Computer and printer

Word-processing and/or spreadsheet software

E-mail and access to the Internet

Computer paper ***

GRCA stationery, including envelopes ***

Postage ***

*** indicates items supplied by or paid for by GRCA

Skills Required:

- Attention to detail
- Accurate and prompt compilation of data
- Basic knowledge of computers and software
- Ability to interact tactfully with others
- Ability to problem-solve and troubleshoot

Responsibilities:

- Compile number of Golden Retrievers defeated for every Golden that receives a Best of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex award in AKC shows.

- Compile number of dogs defeated by virtue of Group and Best in Show wins.

- Compile a list of dogs who won Best in Show, and Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex at specialties.

- Provide data required to the Yearbook editor.

- Provide data required to the GRCA News editor.

- Maintain data and records in a usable format.

- Promptly notify the GRCA Board, via the Club Secretary, if unable to fulfill committee responsibilities.

- Turn complete records and files over to successor.

Res. MY 01-24

Contact GRCA Secretary, Janet Peacock, if you are interested: jepgr@aol.com

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