

# Beardie Tales

Jan-Feb 2006

Chicagoland Bearded Collie Club  
Established 1972  
<http://my.execpc.com/~gmoulton/cbcc/>

Vol. 20, No. 1-2

## ***From The Past Prez...***

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH. Can you believe it? I was speechless. That's what happened when I received the wonderful framed print of the joyful Beardie. That's what I call it because the Beardie looks absolutely full of and loving life. A happy print. A happy me as the recipient of the print. I wish you could all see it. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know everyone much better in the past four years. In the past president position on the board I will continue to have my fingers in the proverbial pie. Caring for our Beardies and those of us who care for them doesn't stop just because the position has for me. My best wishes to you all.

Karen

## ***From the New Prez...***

We had a great turn out at our January meeting, and lively discussion about rescue, herding, and future events, and delicious food. Thank you Arlene and Mike Fenney for having us once again!

I would like every member to think about what we want CBCC to be in the future. Some specific questions: Should we have an event geared toward making money? What about having a fund raiser for rescue or Beardie health? Do we want program at some meetings? What topics would interest you? Do you have any ideas for speakers? If we have the Chain O'Lakes show site for 2007, do we want to continue there, or is it time to move on? Should we begin NOW to plan a bounce or other dog friendly event this summer? Is that something we could/should do the weekend of Waukesha, where we're already having sweeps and a supported entry? (Just ideas I'm throwing out...)

I plan to have every meeting at an event of some kind—if the meeting is at a show, and you don't show

**CBCC Meeting**  
**Saturday, March 4, 2006**  
**Wisconsin KC Dog Show**  
**Wisconsin State Fairground**  
**West Allis, WI**  
**½ Hour After Beardies Show**  
(For the uninitiated, West Allis is a southwest suburb of Milwaukee)

your Beardie, come anyway. We'll probably meet at Shannon's at the herding instinct test this fall—join us whether you bring a Beardie to be tested or not. I'd like to start a mentor's program, where people can call or email an officer to say "we would like to come to a meeting AND we would like to know more about showing, or herding, or obedience. And CBCC could connect you with a knowledgeable club member to meet at that event. I'd also like suggestions for making the meetings serve the members better in any way you all can think of. Come to West Allis to kick these ideas around. Come early and clap for the Beardies. My phone number is 309/762-7894, and my email is [beardieone@qconline.com](mailto:beardieone@qconline.com). Bounces and barks.

Carol

## ***CBCC Officers and Directors...***

President	Carol Freeman
Past President	Karen Shaw
Vice President	Dawn Szecsy
Secretary	Nancy Steckel
Treasurer	Claudia Diaz
Board of Directors	Arlene Fenney, Bob Gleason, Cheryl Poliak, and Mary Steckel,

## TV Land...

If you missed these shows, you will want to kick yourself.

In late January in Chicago and early February in Milwaukee, PBS ran a show on Nature's Underdogs. It was the tale of two dogs—a Bloodhound and a Beardie—rescued from animal shelters in the US and UK. With the help of trainers, the dogs were loved and taught to hone their innate skills as working dogs. Holly, the Bloodhound, is now a valued member of the Massachusetts State Police and Herbie, the Beardie, is now a “herdin dog” and at home with his owner and 22 Border Collies in the Yorkshire dales of England. (*Editor's Note: As someone who has taken herding lessons for over 12 years, I especially liked the Herbie story. I cannot get over how many things the trainer was doing that Shannon Wolfe has harped on or tried to pound into my head for all these many years. Herding and doing it right is universal.*)

The second show was on the Animal Planet in mid February. It was on the Best Destinations for Dogs in America. And the No. 1 Best Destination was in Northeastern Illinois—the Wauconda area. It was Camp Dogwood. It is a weekend retreat for owners and their dogs. It is a bonding experience. There is swimming in a lake, boating, agility, obedience, lure coursing, herding, long walks in the woods, evening campfires, etc. Accommodations include a lodge and cabins. And, I bet you can't guess who the herding instructor is? Yes, it is Shannon Wolfe, instinct tester for CBCC. (*Editor's Note: Shannon is a good friend and I really enjoyed seeing her brief appearance on national TV.*)

## Just a Dog

From time to time, people tell me “lighten up, it's just a dog” or “that's a lot of money for just a dog.” They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for “just a dog.”

Some of my proudest moments have come about with “just a dog.”

Many hours have passed and my only company was “just a dog,” but I did not once feel slighted.

Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by “just a dog” and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of “just a dog” gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's “just a dog.” Then you will probably understand phrases like “just a friend,” “just a sunrise,” or “just a promise.”

“Just a dog” brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy.

“Just a dog” brings out the compassion and patience that makes me a better person. Because of “just a dog” I will rise early, take long walks, and look longingly to the future.

So for me and folks like me, it's not “just a dog” but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

“Just a dog” brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that it's not “just a dog” but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being “just a man.”

So they next time you hear the phrase “just a dog” just smile, because they “just don't understand.”