

BREED COLUMNS

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Massachusetts. In Maryland, there is the Howard County Fairgrounds, in West Friendship. Up and coming, the new kid on the block is Meadow Event Park in Doswell, Virginia.

This column is titled *The Way We Were* not only because of the changes in dog show sites, but also in reference to the movie of that name produced in 1973, starring Robert Redford and Barbra Streisand. Robert Redford was one of my all-time favorite actors. His recent passing and the memories and review of his movie career was an added influence to create this column in reference to dog shows and *The Way We Were*.

—Betsy Horn Humer,
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Curly-Coated Retrievers

2026 WORLD CURLY SEMINAR

The United States is a very big place, especially

geographically. We tend to forget there are other parts of the world where the Curly population is also thriving. Yes, the internet has made it easier to see what is happening in other parts of the world, but we still tend to focus on home.

Enter the World Curly Seminar, which is held every four years. It is a one-stop shop for all things Curly. In the space of a few days, there are many opportunities to connect with the world Curly-Coated

Retriever community. I attended the WCS in 2022, which was hosted in Stockholm, Sweden. I got to meet people up close and personal who were formerly just names (and faces) on Facebook. There were approximately 100 Curlies in attendance from over fifteen countries. There were seminars, field demonstrations and a rally exhibition, not to mention a conformation specialty. It was a true smorgasbord of Curlies!

In 2026, it is being held in



Curly-Coated Retriever Ch. Black Rod of Sicca Wei, 1970

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

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Copenhagen, Denmark. The website with all the information you will need is <http://www.cws2026.dk/>. The event takes place August 24–28. One of the unique features of these seminars is that you can stay on property in well-appointed cabins that put you in the center of the action.

While the physical configuration of the event makes it more approachable, it is the access to people who are as passionate as we are about our special breed that makes this something not to be missed. Four years ago, I had the unimaginable opportunity to meet the breeders of the girl I imported. I also got to put my hands on her dam and half-sisters. This was the thrill of my trip. It was only possible because I made the effort to attend the World Curly Seminar in Stockholm.

The itinerary is packed with workshops, presentations, demonstrations, and an actual conformation show. The lunches and dinners are a wonderful opportunity to meet with old friends and make new

ones. It is also wonderful to just sit down at the end of the day and exchange stories about our amazing dogs. The trials and tribulations they have put us through over the years are universal.

Please consider putting the 2026 World Curly Seminar on your radar next year. It quite possibly will change your perspective on the status of our breed. Breeders in the U.S. are a cog in the wheel of a much bigger picture. It behooves us to take into consideration all aspects of the breed to which we have devoted so much time and effort. Even more important than the serious business of breeding dogs is the perhaps once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of meeting the incredible people who are the guardians of the world of Curly-Coated Retrievers.

I truly hope you join us next August. You will have a great time!

—Ellen Manes,
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Club of America

Golden Retrievers

A MIDWINTER THANK-YOU AND INTRODUCTION

I want to begin with best wishes to Nona Kilgore Bauer as she begins her retirement from serving the Golden Retriever community for 18 years as the AKC GAZETTE breed columnist. For those who do not know Nona, let me share with you her contributions to our breed.

Nona is the author of many books about dogs. Among them are *Dog Heroes of September 11th: A Tribute to America's Search and Rescue Dogs*; *Golden Retrievers for Dummies*; and *Retriever Madness*. Nona is a 16-time (at last count) Dog Writers Association of America nominee (and frequent winner). She was the recipient of the cherished Vern Bower Humanitarian Award from the Golden Retriever Club of America. In nearly five decades of retriever ownership, Nona's dogs have excelled in hunting tests, field trials, and obedience trials.