

In Memory of Ann Witte

*Ann Witte was a kind and generous person. Yes, she always told you like it was, but her heart was good and she had unmeasured love for her dogs. Ann has been to every Beardie Camp since we started in 2000. She gave tirelessly to help owners and their Beardies learn about herding. She worked very long, hot, and hard hours through nine camps and never complained. Her passion for our breed and preserving the herding instinct is unrivaled. She did so much for our breed and for countless people, including myself, whom she mentored over the years. Ann is a legend; she will be long remembered, and her work will live on. Rest in peace, dear Ann. We will miss you.
.....Rosie Schroeder and Walt Ernst*



*When I first got involved with trialing Ann's trial was the closest trial to Minnesota. Ann was welcoming and encouraging, which started the road to where we are today. She influenced many people and we owe her a lot....
JoAnna Yund*

*A real loss. My first encounter was at Beardie Camp She was so helpful trying to get me to understand what to do I can laugh now looking back on how much patience she had to have had with a bunch of green horn!💕
Please include Glenn and I and we would like to make a donation if you will tell us what your plans are.....Best Regard Debbie and Glenn Alexander*

I first contacted Ann in 1994 to inquire about any upcoming litters and the possibility of acquiring a "red" boy. I was very quickly corrected that beardies were brown not red and so the relationship began <VBG>. In May of 1995, my brown boy, that Ann had dubbed the "Great Cat Hunter (little did she know at that time what a hunter he was) arrived via Delta Airlines to Seattle where I drove to pick him up. Little did I know at that moment, what that little brown boy would become or the doors he would open for me but what I did know is that it was love at first sight.

Ann and I had spent some time on the phone trying to come up with a registered name, she did not like any that I kept picking, said it needed to be something with substance as it was going to show up on the pedigrees of future generations. We decided on Artisan Northstar "Tag" to me.

During my spare time and for my holidays, I performed for a travelling family entertainment company called "Superdogs" and Tag was going to be my next Superdog. With Tag (stage name Bumper Car) I travelled all across Canada, the USA, Bermuda and Puerto Rico performing with the Superdogs. We had tea with the Premier of Bermuda, he was one of the dogs on the Techni Cal Dog Food bag for years. He was the "Little Dog that Could". His highest jump was just 3" under the dog that held the world record high jump at the time (also a Superdog). One of my proudest and most memorable shows was when Ann came to BC to see Tag perform here at the Pacific National Exhibition. She said to me after that she was quite simply amazed at him and had never seen a dog quite like him. I could not have been prouder of him and grateful to her for picking him for me. Not only did Tag perform in Superdogs but he competed very successfully in agility, flyball, obedience and we did herding whenever time permitted.

Soon after I started talking to Ann about my next beardie, because as we all know you cannot have just one, and we decided to my delight, to breed her Tyke to my Tag and from that breeding which was Tag's only ever breeding, I obtained Artisan Northern Windsedge "Rip". Rip has a story unto himself and was an incredible dog, maybe not quite as agile as his dad but every bit as athletic and an incredible herding dog and where his dad was stand offish with people he did not know, Rip was a favourite at all the sick children's hospitals in all the cities we travelled to.

Ann and I started talking about another breeding to Tag. He received his Award of Merit from that one litter and Ann wanted another female from him. The biggest problem at the time was distance, I was



in BC she was in Nebraska. That is when she sent me Artisan Tarnished Bullet ("Tear"). Unfortunately we were never able to breed Tag to Tear. When Tear was less than 18 months old, I entered her in a fun trial. She had been on sheep for less than a month and she took 2nd place and was the only dog other than a kelpie who was able to pen her sheep. She is a very reserved dog around people but around sheep she is 100% confident in what she is doing.

I attended a herding clinic with Rip and Tear where they were the only non border collies attending. The clinician was very skeptical about working with us and commented that any beardies he had ever seen were no good but at the end of the 3 days during his wrap up comments he said that if I ever bred either of those dogs he would be very interested in a puppy a true testament of the Artisan lines.

Over the years Ann has always been my go to person whenever I had questions about beardies, herding or possible future beardie breedings. We stayed in touch through email and sometimes over the phone and although I had always planned on visiting Gaelyn Glen Farm, I never got there.

Ann I will miss you dearly, thank you for everything you have done for me, your dogs have changed my life.

Lorraine Jurovich,
Langley, BC, Canada
Artisan Northstar
Artisan Northern Windsedge
Artisan Tarnished Bullet Jurovich

I first met Ann at Beardie Camp. I took my beardie to Camp to enter the herding instinct test. We took the herding lesson in the morning and the instinct test in the afternoon. Ann was the instructor. During the lesson my bearded collie, Katie, showed interest but wasn't too certain about the sheep. Ann said she needs to think about it. In



the afternoon, once Katie got in with the sheep and they moved, she was off. I later contacted Ann about doing a litter and I made my first visit to Ann's farm. That visit was the beginning of our journey into herding with bearded collies. I joined the Great Plains Bearded Collie Club, Ann was president. This gave me the opportunity to visit with Ann at her farm for clinics and trials. She was a keen observer and facilitator on the breed and herding. On the ten acres of land, Ann had an 'A' course, 'B' course, a field for 'HT' and one for 'PT'. Ann was very generous with the use of her farm and it showed her love for the breed and keeping their natural herding ability intact. Her advice and insight were important to me over the years and I will really miss her perspective. In June 2016, the club had a trial in Wisconsin which Ann attended. The picture on the GPBCC website I took. To me, that is how I will always remember Ann. She is waiting by the gate to enter for her run in the trial. Stock stick in hand and a beloved bearded collie at her side. I think she would approve. Rest easy Ann, your contribution will endure. ... Eileen Beachell and George Thomson



One of my fondest memories is being back at Ann's place in Omaha and having the opportunity to do the walks in the fields with the extended family of Artisan Beardies while we humans got to chat and enjoy the Beardies running while sheep looked on from other fields.....Barbara Claxton

