

DKGNA Golden Needle Awards

By Randall Cherry

Upon the recommendation and request of the DKGNA, the DKV has awarded 2020 Golden Needle Awards to both Frank and Marianne O'Leary, and a 2021 Golden Needle Award to Tyler Smith for their outstanding contributions to the Deutsch Kurzhaar breed. Due to Covid-19 the Golden Needle Awards for 2020 were held until 2021.

Golden Needle Awards to Frank O'Leary and to Marianne O'Leary for 2020



Frank accepting the Golden Needle Award on behalf of Marianne and Frank from Michael Hammerer DKV President

After hunting with GSPs since 1963 for Frank, and 1973 for Marianne, the O'Leary's, in 2005, made the first of an eventual twenty-three trips to Germany to bring home their first two DKs. Both Atlanta KS vom Hege-Hof and Ussa vom Osterberg were approximately nine weeks old. As Frank: At the time we were only in search of two hunting dogs. We had no idea what would follow. The end of June 2005, with neither of us speaking German, we traveled 3,900 kilometers in ten days and learn a lot about DK's and the German leaders. Up to this time I had always trained my own hunting dogs and thought I was pretty good at it. Watching the German leaders, I realized I knew nothing! Furthermore, we realized that

the DKs were capable of doing so much more than we in North America expected of them.

Frank continues: During that trip, organized for us by Christine Hammerer, we meet Dr. Lemmer and his family, Klaus Bommers and his family, Leo Karduck, Christine Plange, Paul Seager, Siegfried Hofstetter and his family, Gerd and Reiner Schad, and Michael & Christine Hammerer. These relationships have grown into friendships that remain in place today enabling us to advance vom Trocken Bach and moreover the DK efforts in North America. Additionally, Micheal and Christine, Gerd, Mr. Bommers and his daughter Rita, Susanna Lemmer, and Birgitta Hofstetter Kraus have all visited us at our home in Walla Walla.

Frank notes: As I started training the pups it became apparent that there was a difference. Both Ussa and Atlanta were very good, but Atlanta was different. Every time I went to show her something, she already knew it. We hunted with the pups that fall at six months of age. I continued to tell Marianne that Atlanta would never be the dog she could be if I trained her. I wanted to send her back to Germany for

education. Finally, Marianne agreed but added why does your dog get to go and not mine. After a number of calls to Germany, language being a huge barrier, both dogs went to Mr. Bommers for their education, and we were committed.

As Frank describes the beginning of their vom Trocken Bach (TBK) kennel: The further we researched Hege-Haus and saw there were females in Germany available for purchase our objectives changed and TBK was created. Our success has been based on our hard work, our commitment to improving the DK bred in North America, and an understanding of genetics based on our background in successfully breeding cattle and horses. It is important to recognize that we were at the right place at the right time to take advantage of over seventy years of breeding by Frau Stramann and her father creating the unmeasured success of vom Hege-Haus. It was our good fortune that we recognized the unbelievable opportunity before us and invested the time and resources necessary to continue with Hege-Haus bloodlines.

The O'Leary's have produced 26 litters totaling 105 puppies through 13 breeding females.

Frank notes their puppies have gone to homes all over the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Additionally, TBK has puppies in New Zealand, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. Most notably, vom Trocken Bach has sold a number of puppies back to homes in Germany.



(L to R) Frank, Mrs. Bommers, Marianne, Mr. Bommers with Atlanta. Mr. Bommers is holding the Klaus Keifer Award from the 2007 IKP.

The O'Learys have owned a total of 12 Kleemann dogs. Ten of which participated in the Kleemann with them as the owner: Clementine, Atlanta, Bellevue, Claudia, Darwin V3, Bessie, Dakota, Graci, Indy (Top 10 overall female at the Kleemann), Maggie V4 in 2016/ V1 in 2018. TBK also owned Rosemarie and Gemma which were Kleemann dogs when we bought them. It is unfortunate that the 2020 Kleemann was cancelled. Had it not been, Sadie, Tilly, Uschka would have participated as well as Ungaro (not owned by TBK). Since 1936 the pass rate at the Kleemann has remained around 50%. The O'Leary's have had eleven dogs participate in the Kleemann with ten earning the KS title, a success rate of 91%.

The O'Leary's have also owned 3 IKP Prize1 dogs: Atlanta, Bellevue, and Bessie. In 2007 Atlanta won the Klaus Kiefer Award as the top dog at the IKP out of 180 dogs.

VGP Prize 1 dogs owned by the O’Leary’s include: Atlanta, Bellevue, Darwin, Bessie, Dakota, Fender, Graci, Indy, Maggie, Sadie, Tilly, Uschka. Wildrose and Wren will do the VGP in the Fall of 2021. Other dogs that we raised that prized in the VGP – Bonny, Cira, Issi, Jäger, Kora, and Tally at 13 months, and Ungaro.



Maggie KS vom Trocken Bach
V1 female at the 2018 Kleemann

The Zuchtschau record of TBK dogs includes: Darwin V1 x 6 times (V3 at 2010 Kleemann); Bessi V1 (Top 10 at 2012 Kleemann); Dakota V3, V4 Klub Rheinland, (Top 20 at 2012 Kleemann); Graci V1 x 3 times including Klub Rheinland, (V Top 10 at 2014 Kleemann); Indy V1 (Top 20 at 2014 Kleemann); Maggie V1 x 3 times (V4 at 2016 Kleemann, V1 at 2018 Kleemann) V1 in 2016 at Klub Südbaden, V1 Female 2018 at Klub Westfalen; Sadie V1 DK Klub Südbaden; Tilly V1 at Klub Mitteldeutschland-Anhalt; Uschka V1 Female 2020 at Klub Westfalen, Wren, Kora, and Ungaro.

Over the years, TBK has imported 4 stud dogs from Germany to augment the DK gene pool in the U.S. These dogs are: Bellevue, Quickstep, Darwin, Etzel. To further augment the U.S. DK gene pool, the O’Leary’s have had their own females bred in Germany, where either the pregnant bitch, or the whelped puppies, were brought back to the U.S. These German-bred dogs include Atlanta was bred to Eberhard in Germany and whelped at the Bommers’ kennel in 2009, Graci was AI’d to Cuno KS vom Thüringer Zipfel in 2015, Maggie was AI’d to Uno KS vom Thüringer Zipfel in 2017, Maggie was bred to Etzel and returned to the U.S. to whelp in 2018.



Darwin KS vom Hege-Hof

In addition to improving and expanding the DK gene pool in the U.S. the O’Leary’s have facilitated the donation of significant raffle prizes to help finance the growth of American DK clubs. Such prizes include, in 2014 the Krull Lodge Hunt Trip; and in 2016 the Hunt Oregon Upland Bird Trip/ Beretta Shotgun. Also included are, in 2018 the Hunt Oregon Upland Bird Hunt/Beretta Shotgun; in 2019 the Hunt Oregon Upland Bird Hunt/Beretta Shotgun; in 2020 the Hunt Oregon Upland Bird Hunt/Beretta Shotgun/ Alger Flats Outfitters Wild Boar, Whitetail Deer and Quail Hunt; and in 2021 the Hunt Oregon Upland Bird Hunt/Beretta Shotgun/ Alger Flats Outfitters Wild Boar, Whitetail Deer and Quail Hunt.

The O'Leary's have sold 143 raffle tickets in the last 3 years, and more than doubled the members of the Western Region of the NADKC as Frank served as the Western Regional Director for 6 years.

In 2017, working with Randall Cherry, Tyler Smith, Jörg Kaltenegger and Jeff Martin, Frank and Marianne became the driving forces in the creation of the DKGNA to better advance the DK breed in North America. Over a two-year period, this group worked to create the organization and launch the DKGNA in fall of 2018. Frank and Marianne provided the interim resources to finance the DKGNA during its infancy. Over a short two-year period, the DKGNA has grown to a membership exceeding one hundred and thirty members. Frank and Marianne were two of the first Life-Members of the DKGNA. Frank was also 1st elected President of the DKGNA; and Marianne serves as the Treasurer of the new club. Together the O'Leary's publish the Monthly Newsletter of the DKGNA.

To further testing opportunities in the U.S., in 2016 Frank and Marianne organized the opportunity for four Formwertrichers (FR) to take their test to become Spezialzuchtrichter's (SZR) in North America. This is the first and only time this has been done. Overcoming substantial administrative obstacles and internal skepticism, the O'Leary's organized the DKV Präsident Michael Hammerer, DKV Breed Warden Gerd Schad, and Christine Hammerer to come to Walla Walla, Washington to conduct the process during the NADKC Annual Meeting. Part of the process was organizing a Zuchtschau, hosted by different Club, for the candidates to evaluate dogs. It was hosted by Can-Am, held in O'Leary's backyard, and the dogs were four Kleemann females, three of which were V1 dogs in Germany and one V3 dog in German, all owned by Frank and Marianne O'Leary.

In 2016 Frank and Marianne were key figures for the Western Region hosting the NADKC Annual Meeting in Walla Walla. The event had over 70 people in attendance from all over the US, Canada, and Germany. The attendance was double the number from the previous Annual Meeting hosted by the Western Region and is matched Annual Meetings held in Chicago and exceeded all other locations. The Fund-Raising Auction generated approximately \$5,000.00 again an amount that was only matched by Annual Meetings in Chicago.

O'Leary's have hosted 9 Derbies/Spring Zuchtschaus and 8 Solms/AZP/VGP/Fall Zuchtschaus. The O'Leary's have tested more than 20 different dogs, most through the VGP, including 10 through the Kleemann.

Golden Needle Award to Tyler Smith for 2021

Tyler Smith purchased his first Deutsch Kurzhaar in 2011, and has had 3 Litters producing 24 puppies, so far. In 2018, he won the NADKC Derby Breeder Award.

Due to Tyler's strong support of his puppy buyers, 100% of his A and B litters were tested through Derby, and 100% of his A and B litters were ran in a Zuchtschau. Of the 17 Dogs tested at the Derby, 16 received a Prize 1, and one a Prize 3. Of the 7 Dog tested at the Solms/AZP, 5 received a Prize 1, and 2 received a Prize 3. Further, 17 of the Zuchtschau dogs received an SG (J), with multiple SG 1 & 2 in youth class

Tyler currently has 5 V-rated adult breeding dogs and has 5 dogs with HD Scores of A2 or higher.

In order to improve breeding standards, Tyler conceived and promoted the concept of "Kurzhaar Kulture," where breeders voluntarily pledge to adhere to ethical breeding standards, and also support their puppy buyers beyond the initial purchase into the training and testing phases of DK ownership.

Tyler is a founding member of DKGNA, and a founding member of Desert Mountain Region. He has personally aided in recruiting 30+ new DKGNA Members.



Tyler is a longstanding kennel operator, trainer and DK breeder in Utah. Tyler spends a lot of time training DKS and is an accomplished trainer. He has trained and handled the highest scoring Solms dog in 2019 (in under 6 weeks). He further has trained and handled 5 personal dogs through DKV/JGHV System, which includes 4 DKs and 1 DD. All 4 DKs were Prize 1 Derby & Solms/AZP. 3 of 4 Dogs completed their tests with 0 deductions (all 4s), while the DD scored 77 pt at his VJP and 186pt at his HZP.

In assisting other club members, Tyler has helped train 13 different group members through DKV system with

Prize 1s.

Tyler focuses on fostering a loving environment for all DK members to thrive in and will help anyone who needs help training or to chat about life. Tyler places a high priority on to protecting the integrity of the breed through high ethical standards, and strong club member support.