

SETTER LETTER



January/February 2024 Issue: Focus on the National



"Did someone say SNOW?"

(photo courtesy of Hans Slegers)

A NOTE
from
SUSIE



Greetings, ESAA Family!

Let's begin with all our amazing members who volunteered at AKC "Meet the Breeds" events around the country, from Ohio to Chicago and New York. There have been many photos shared of our two- and four-footed ambassadors, sharing the love of our breed and educating the public. Thank you to all of you who volunteered your time and your beautiful setters for these public events. Bravo!!

Planning is well underway for our 2024 National. It will be at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio from September 23-29, 2024. The Ohio/Buckeye clubs will host a specialty show the Saturday following the National, and Sunday, the Denver Club will host a specialty. This year's show chairs, Julie Brimble and Debra Davis, are working with National Coordinator Tannley Goldberg, to negotiate and plan another fabulous National. Next time you see Tannley, please thank her for all her work over the past two years. This is an exceptionally difficult and time-consuming volunteer position, and she has done an amazing job for ESAA and its members. This year ESAA will host the National. We NEED volunteers. If you can lend your time and talents, please email [Julie Brimble](#).

I understand that the Roberts Centre is a prime dog show facility and I'm excited for ESAA to be able to host our National at this location. Dayton is the closest airport, but Cincinnati is a reasonable distance as well, giving you two great options. Stay tuned to the ESAA website, as information about the schedule and hotel reservations will be open by March 1st.

So many wonderful specialty shows are coming this year. Log on to [ESAA/Events](#) for a full list of upcoming specialties; there are many options all over the country. Take the opportunity to reconnect with friends and show your beautiful dogs. The survival of our regional clubs depends on you through your memberships, volunteering, and entering club specialty shows or other hosted events.

Thank you everyone for your support of your parent club and regional clubs.

Housekeeping Items:

- If you haven't already paid your dues, please do so now. After March 1st you must go through the entire application process. So, don't delay, [log on and pay now](#).
- Breeders Forum "Live Chat": If you have ANY questions related to breeding your bitch or regarding breeding/pedigrees in general, please ask our new ***BREEDER RESOURCES FORUM***. It's in the Members-Only section of our website. Go to "Live Chat" to ask questions of our expert panel of breeders. Please make use of this valuable program.
- PLEASE SUPPORT OUR [ESAA LOGO WEAR FOR THE 2024 ESAA NATIONAL!](#)
- Your 2020/2021 Annuals will be arriving soon at your homes. If you've not yet ordered one, you can place your order on the [ESAA website](#).
- On February 5th, the ESAA board had an emergency meeting regarding to the future of the Annual. There was a lot of discussion by board members with feedback from their regions. After all the facts were taken into consideration, the board voted to no longer create the Annual until further notice. It was an extremely difficult decision and not taken lightly. ESAA invested a substantial amount of money on the contracted 2018/'19 and 2020/'21 Annuals. The decision was made for the following reasons:
 1. The cost of production, goods, services, and printing have become extremely expensive, and ESAA can no longer afford to produce an Annual.
 2. Volunteers did not come forward to assist with collecting data.
 3. It appears there's a lack of interest in the Annual: fewer ads were submitted and with the last two volumes printed, there were many left over.

With many of these facts, the membership sent us a message. During our pause, ESAA will continue to retain vital historical information beginning with 2022 until the pause is lifted.

- I presented the option of a quarterly magazine, but the board felt we needed to put a pause on all options for now and revisit it once ESAA has recouped some of the funds spent on the last four years of Annuals, as our losses were substantial.

- I am excited to announce that Asha Nahas will be our new ESAA Newsletter editor. Thank you, Asha, for volunteering. Welcome to the ESAA team. She will start with the March and April newsletter.
- A *sincere* thank you to Linda Lauby for her work as the past editor. You did an amazing job! We are grateful for so many of your contributions. You will always be a valued member of the ESAA volunteer team. Thank you for all of your contributions.
- Another difficult decision the board made was to no longer fund the National Trophy Fund with \$10 from every membership, due to financial constraints. Kathy Cunningham Roy has offered to be our National Trophy Fundraiser Chairperson. Thank you, Kathy, for stepping up to chair this committee. Please be generous when Kathy asks for your donation.
- The unfortunate truth of the matter is that hosting Nationals and field events at any venue has become very expensive. Everything from room rates, ballroom rental, facility charges, electric rates, wranglers, birds, food and beverages, equipment rental, judges, and superintendents have skyrocketed, not to mention that entries are down across the sport. Our Nationals have been operating at a loss for the last couple of years, and this affects ESAA's treasury.
- There is a new form under "Members Only" to provide feedback, comments, or to ask questions. Everything comes directly to me. So, if you have any comments, positive suggestions or are willing to volunteer, please reach out. I ran on being a members' president, so I want to hear from you. I will keep a log and present all feedback to the board.

Be Well and Hug Your Fur Kids!

Susie

All Things NATIONAL:

The following items showcase the 2023 National Specialty. A link is provided to special PDFs created for each subject, plus Jill Warren's slideshow.

HIGHLIGHTS

from the

2023 NATIONAL

By Dr. Jill Warren

These notes are based on remarks I made at the National banquet but revised and expanded.

Looking at the entire entry of this National, I would say our breed is in very good shape. This is from the perspective of someone who judges all the sporting breeds at all-breed shows and breed and group specialties. Yay us!

All the entries in the Best of Breed class were quality, and I had to go to details to be able to make cuts. After multiple cuts, I was left with a group of symmetrical, typey, athletic movers who checked all my boxes. I was looking for balance (front matches rear) with proper angulation (approaching 90 degrees) front and rear. Our standard does not address proportion (I wish it did!) but I think if you talk to most experienced breeders, they would say that our English Setters should be slightly longer than tall. According to our standard, height should be about 24 inches for bitches and about 25 inches for dogs. As for length of leg, my opinion is that we should be about 50:50 from withers to elbow and elbow to ground. The dogs are maintaining their size pretty well, but some bitches are smaller than what the standard calls for. I challenge breeders to preserve the approximate heights called for in the standard. Also, we want to avoid looking long and low or leggy.

For the rest of Jill Warren's article, please [click here](#).



For the *slideshow* of the 2023 National,
[click here.](#)

For the PDF of the ESAA 2023
National Specialty winners, [click here.](#)

ESAA member Joe Deese gave us permission to use his photos for the National Specialty slideshow, and we've also used them in a pictorial of the National. He said that taking those photos was his gift to the breed, and an amazing gift it is. If you've not yet looked through his remarkable library of National images, you can do so [here.](#)

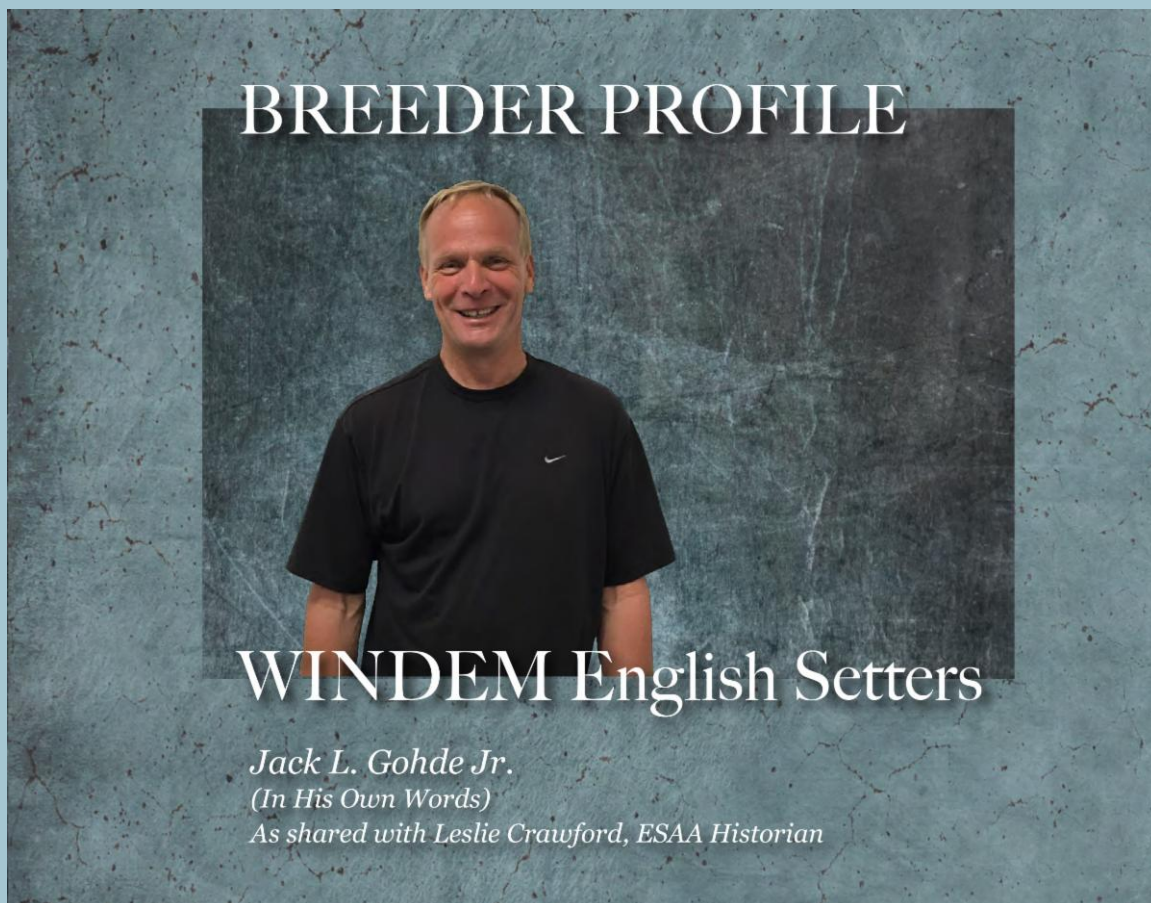
A Pictorial
of the
2023 ESAA National Specialty



Click [here](#) for the PDF
of the National Specialty Pictorial.

BREEDER PROFILE: **Windem English Setters**

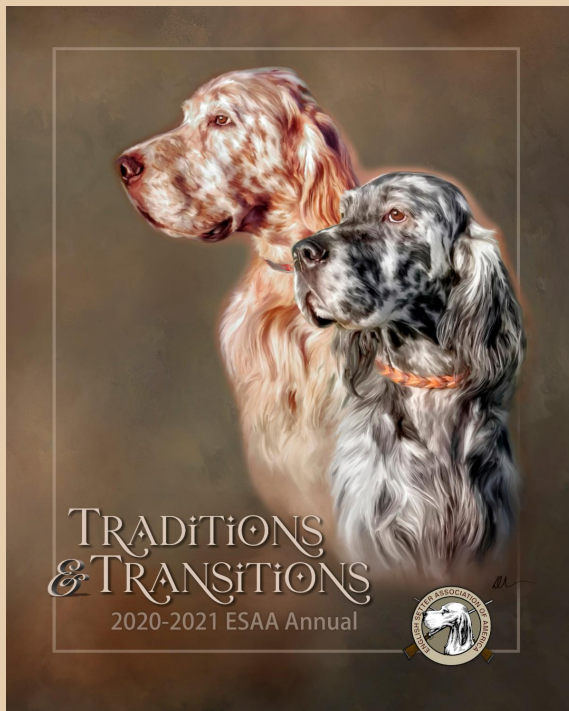
By Jack Gohde, as told to Leslie Crawford, ESAA Historian



My last name is pronounced “Go-dee,” and my kennel name is Windem. The name Windem came from a mystery movie on television. In it there was a lovely old home set in the country with a wooden placard with the home name, “Windem.” It immediately struck me as a great English name. I eventually tried to register it as my kennel name but was informed by the AKC that the name “Wind’em” was a registered kennel name in Great Britain. AKC stated I could not register the name but could use it on my dogs.

[Click here for the full article on Windem English Setters.](#)

Order Your 2020/2021 ESAA Annual



ESAA 2020/'21 Annual

Specifications: 8.5" x 11", 300
pageshardcover, 300 pages.

Price: \$75, plus \$9
domestic shipping.

Order Your 2020/2021 ESAA Annual NOW!

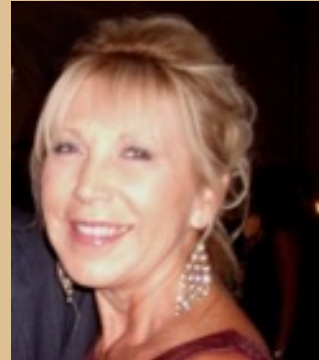
This is the first ESAA Annual that is full color throughout! **Traditions & Transitions** features paintings of English Setters by Danica Barreau of Pouka Art and Photography, and is as much an art book as it is a record of English Setter history. Go to the ESAA website for ordering.

A few 2018/'19 Annuals are still available. Please contact Linda Lauby if you would like one mailed to you.

CAN DOGS TELL TIME?



By Michelle J. Raisor, PhD
Health and Genetics Chairman
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My husband commented to me how strange it was that about an hour before I'm due home from work the dogs patiently sit by the window, waiting for me to get home. What is even more strange is that as a college professor my schedule varies from day to day (and includes night courses), and my dogs still seem to sense when I will be arriving home. Another fascinating thing happened when we switched from Daylight Savings Time: the dogs automatically seemed to know that the time had changed and made the adjustment. So, is it possible that dogs can tell time? Do they have some type of internal clock that gives them the perception of time?

I have no doubt that dogs can perceive some aspects of time by the amount of daylight. My own dogs know that when it gets dark in the evening it is dinner time for them. They get excited running back and forth from me to the bowls, literally willing me to get up and feed them. But how do they know my work schedule?

***Click [here](#) for Dr. Raisor's full article.
To view the video "Can Dogs Tell Time?"
by Animal Cognition, click [here](#).***



My Experience at the National Championships

by Carly Satterfield, Junior Handler

Traveling to compete at the Royal Canin National Championships was an incredible experience. Getting there took a lot of hard work, support, and dedication, but I am grateful for every second. This kind of trip always seemed a bit far-fetched to me. I reside in Bowdoinham, Maine — a very small town — and I am a junior in high school. I take all advanced and honors classes while being involved in three sports seasons, two musicals simultaneously, and multiple clubs, including volunteering in my community and leadership roles at my school. A difficult task, but I love the structure it gives me. Missing school to travel to Florida certainly seemed daunting, but when you have so much support and love from a community of people willing to help, anything is possible!

[Click here for the full article on Carly's trip to the National Championships.](#)

On Naming Dogs and Meeting New Friends

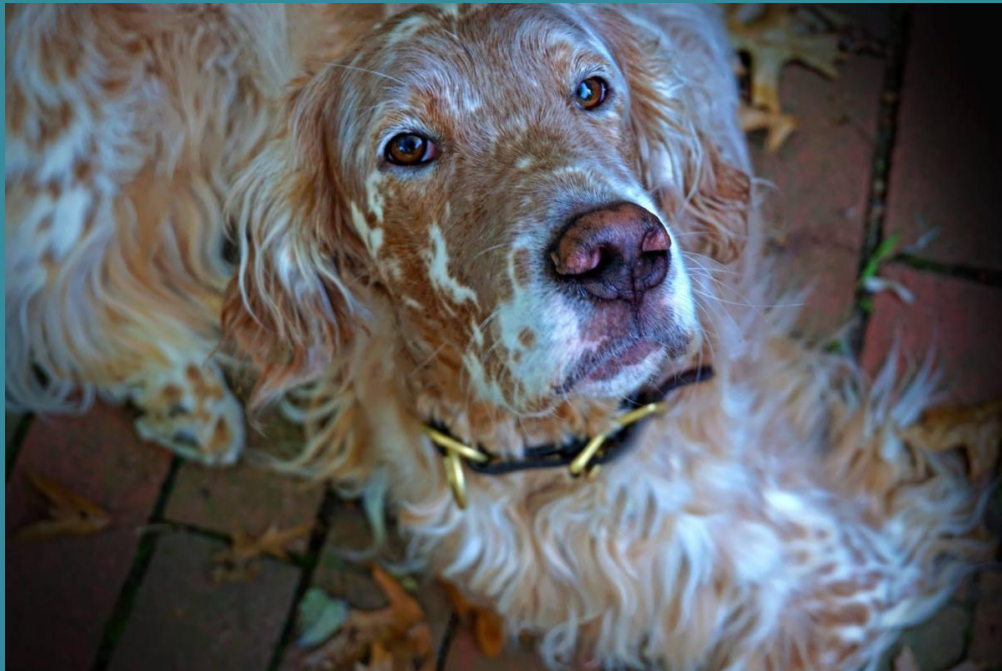
By Linda Lauby

As I prepare to step down as your Setter Letter editor, I'd like to share a story about how my first show dog acquired his call name. I know that naming dogs is a huge part of life for many of you, so the next time you see me at a show, please share your own dog-naming stories.

About 20 years ago, my dear friend JoAnne Scott regaled me with tales of her time spent in the aviation industry in California. Several were about a World War II fighter pilot named Ransom Rideout, who was with the Flying Tigers. Being a (former) pilot myself, I was at first taken with tales of derring-do, but I was also intrigued by his name, which I thought of as befittingly dashing.

A decade later, I got an English Setter named Whiskey and renamed him Ransom...

[Click here for the full story.](#)



ESAA ANNUAL AWARDS

Submit your information now for ESAA's 2023 Annual Awards. Kendra Huber is our new tabulator, and she must receive your application on or before **May 31st**.

CONGRATULATIONS to recipients of
the **Dick Fox CHIC Futurity Award**
and the **Owner Handler Award**

click [here](#) for the article

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

*Please renew your ESAA membership before the
1st of March. Lots of resources are available to
members and we don't want you to miss out!*

ESAA Board of Directors Meetings

Videoconference December 12, 2023

Click [here](#) for board minutes

Videoconference January 16, 2024

Click [here](#) for board minutes

**You are now able to donate to
the Health & Genetics Fund
through the ESAA website.**

ATTENTION: Regional Club Secretaries and Specialty Chairs

Opportunities for Majors at Specialties

(Starting July 3, 2024)

A modification to Chapter 16, Section 1 of the AKC Rules Applying to Dog Shows was approved by the Delegate body at their December meeting. The modification provides all specialty clubs the option for the Reserve Winners Dog and Reserve Winners Bitch to earn a three-point major provided that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of the Reserve Winner's sex totals at least twice the number required for a five-point major in the region in which the event is held. Previously, this option was only available at a breed's National Specialty. Clubs must opt out on their event application if they do not want this option available at their specialty show.

Conformation Applications and Panels Due at Least 18 Weeks Prior to Closing

As a reminder, event applications and judges' panels for conformation shows must be submitted at least eighteen (18) weeks prior to the closing of entries. So that they comply with the rules, we recommend that clubs set a goal to submit their applications and panels six months prior to the date of their event. This will provide ample time for processing applications and panels, and to resolve anything needed for approval.

NEW TITLE LISTINGS

NEW TITLES:

December & January 2024 - [click here](#)

Information received after the *Setter Letter* deadline will go into the following month's issue.

Click [here](#) to educate yourself on all of AKC's titles and abbreviations listed alphabetically.

Click [here](#) to view all AKC sport titles.

**Do you have a new field,
agility, obedience,
conformation or other title
on your English Setter?**

Please submit the following information to **[Ross Rice](#)**:
in the order listed below:

Complete Name of Dog New Title (acronym only)
Month Title was Attained Age of Dog
Breeder(s)
Owner(s)

NOTE: in the email subject line, please write **NEW TITLE**

[ESAA Website](#)



Thank you to everyone
who contributed to this newsletter,
especially those who sent images!