

# ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .***

Wow . . . what a couple of cold winter months across most of the USA. Still, in the midst of January winter weather, a few hardy souls ventured out to participate in the BHCA Hunt Performance test sponsored by the BHC of Gtr. Fort Worth and headed by local Hunt Committee Chairman, **Carrol Peterman**. While the freezing rain fell and the winds blew, soaked muddy grounds tried to hold our feet hostage as the hounds chased more quarry than was thought possible in one location. The hounds were having the time of their lives as we were trying to keep the elements from doing us in. The most exciting parts for me were watching the Basset Hound two-couple pack (four hounds) hunt and the final awards when you found out who passed their tests. Wondering if someone would need to tow our cars out of the mud was in the back of my mind even while enjoying the hot homemade beef and vegetable soup. Which, I might add . . . went down very, very well. After his role as judge, **Ken Engle** lent of his hunting experience to some of the participants. From what I could tell, there was some mentoring going on between persons in both the Basset Hound and Dachshund breeds. While we do not report competitive results of other breeds in the *Tally-Ho*, I must say that they were interesting to watch.

Mentoring is an activity which purpose is to help an individual advance in his or her chosen field by another being willing to share expertise or knowledge. In most cases, the mentor is someone older (not particularly by age but in specific experience) than the protégé. All that is needed is a mentor that is skilled in some area that the protégé isn't and that he/she can benefit from time spent with the mentor. For me they were **Knox Williams** for breeding, showing and love of the breed, **Bob Arbs** for the BHCA and what it takes to keep the parts working together, and **Het Garwood** for loyalty to the club, its traditions and reasons for being. Sometimes you do not even know that you have become someone's mentor or at times the protégé is unaware that they have a mentor. But if they think back they may remember the signs that give it away. Can you name yours? Should I have the time to venture into other areas of activity, there will be other mentors.

The act of mentoring can cast a wide shadow within the BHCA as the mentor should also be an advocate for the protégé, sharing the individual's accomplishments. The mentor might use their personal network to help the protégé to find opportunities to show their worth to the club and their talents. Take someone under your wing and allow them the chance to shine in the committee by letting them take the lead even if you are the current Chairperson. The best example that I remember was many years back when **Sanda Launey** was the Research Committee Chair. Sanda encouraged a committee member to take the most active role as it was a major interest of hers. Later, Sanda suggested to the Board that the person be offered the committee chair position while she stayed on the committee. From that grew the BHCA's new role within the AKC/Canine Health Fund. Later that new found individual confidence brought us one of our hardest working Corresponding Secretaries, **Mary Ann Svizeny**. Mentoring is not just something that we do for new judges.

The Board is currently looking into Canine Legislation and the AKC's call for all clubs to provide a person to monitor canine legislation within your state. While things happen over which we have no immediate control . . . such as the abhorrent new regulations recently set into motion in the city of Louisville, KY . . . that does not mean that we cannot counter the efforts of these persons/organizations whose only objective seems to be the eradication of keeping of domestic animals for any circumstance. Continued and directed political pressure can undo what these persons can and have done within our sport/hobby. There are misguided idealists working the political system and while compromise might be in their vocabulary, it is not in the results. We may soon find ourselves on the losing side of any argument that affects our hounds and how we keep them. On October 24 letters went to all clubs describing the AKC Legislative Liaison program. The AKC is encouraging each club or a group of local clubs to get together and name a person or persons to help insure that we are all made aware of things that are happening that could adversely affect not only our breed but any animal legislation.

In this TH issue you will find the report of the Nominating Committee. The Board wishes to thank the members of the Nominating Committee, **Peter Bach (Chairman)**, **Diane Malenfant** and **Sanda Launey** for their efforts and time. Also, we congratulate those members that have been researched and nominated as candidates by the BHCA Nominating Committee. Anyone who wishes the membership to consider them for one of the open positions should avail themselves of the BHCA petition process and send in their completed petitions to the Recording Secretary, **Jerry Rush**, by July 15<sup>th</sup>. While persons may run for office for any reason, service to the club and the breed is what is most important. If you and twenty-five others feel that you have something positive to offer the club through its administration, let the rest of us know.

As we all head to this year's spring activities, please remember to travel safe . . .

*Randy Frederiksen*