



The Lab's Tale

Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.

"We give Labs a second chance"

Volume 8 Issue 2 Spring 2006

Meet the Board of Directors

MLRR currently has 5 board members who devote an incredible amount of time and energy to Lab rescue. They all work "regular" jobs, and spend much of their free-time volunteering for MLRR.



Deb C. Deb is a founding member of MLRR, and has been a volunteer since 1999. She maintains the MLRR web site, is the Editor of the quarterly newsletter, and still finds time to take on the role of Treasurer. Deb also helps out at events and does pre-adoption home visits. Over the last several years Deb has fostered over 80 rescued Labs in her home. She currently owns two Labrador Retrievers (including an MLRR "alum") as well as a Rottweiler whom she adopted from a local animal shelter. Deb is a Research Lab Administrator at a Medical School in Chicago.



Jennifer L. Jennifer is our Intake Coordinator, Home Visit Coordinator, Transport Coordinator and Co-Placement Coordinator. She also houses all of our merchandise and handles the MLRR e-mail. In addition, Jen works closely with obedience trainers when a dog is in need of some "extra" training. She began volunteering in March 2000. During that time she has fostered over 59 Labs, transported many dogs, assist with events and done home visits. Jennifer's husband Ernie is also very involved in MLRR. They are currently fostering a blind puppy named Rae. Jennifer owns 3 Labs (two were adopted from MLRR) and works in the Marketing Department at a Spirits and Wine Company.



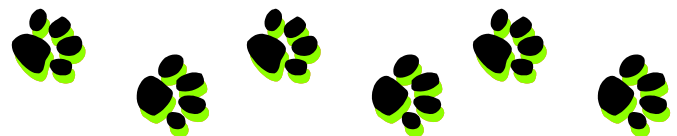
Jenny P. Jenny Paul is MLRR's Foster Home Coordinator, Database Administrator, and Co-Placement Coordinator. Jenny became an MLRR volunteer in 2002. In June of 2004 she started fostering and joined the Board of Directors. In just under 2 years, Jenny and her husband George have fostered over 50 dogs! They have also adopted 4 dogs from MLRR. The last two they adopted, Charley and Riley (fka Goober), were 2 long-term fosters who both required extensive medical care and have made full recoveries! Jenny & George usually foster more than one dog at a time and foster many dogs requiring medical care. Jenny has a large family and has recruited several family members to adopt and volunteer. Jenny works for Enterprise in Northbrook.



Colleen S. Colleen is our Follow-Up Coordinator. She contacts all of the adoptive families following the adoption, and helps make sure the dog is settling in to his or her new home. She began volunteering with MLRR in June of 2004. During that time she has fostered over 10 Labs, transported many dogs and done home visits. Colleen has fostered several dogs with medical issues including Lilly who had hip dysplasia. After two surgeries and many weeks of physical therapy, she and her husband John decided to adopt this wonderful girl. In addition to Lilly, they have a 7-year old Lab named Addie. They are currently fostering Bosco and will be sad to see him go when he is adopted soon. Colleen enjoys her work with Midwest Lab Rescue and finds the experience very rewarding. She is a teacher in Evanston.



Heather V. Heather is the Events Coordinator and Fundraising Co-coordinator for Midwest Lab Rescue. She works closely with our volunteer coordinator and members of the fundraising committee to make sure that MLRR always has a variety of fun (and profitable) events planned to keep our rescue running. She is currently planning the upcoming 2nd Annual Silent Auction and 6th Annual Reunion, among other things. Heather began volunteering for MLRR in the summer of 2004 after adopting senior Lab Mae West. In her "outside" life, Heather is an attorney who serves as a law clerk for the United States District Courts.



Midwest Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc. (MLRR)
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MLRR is an **all volunteer**, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to finding loving, permanent homes for unwanted or abandoned Labrador Retrievers throughout the Chicago area.

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Recent Adoptions

The following Labs have been adopted since December:

Romero	Brad J.	Chicago
Fred	Betsy & Dave G.	Glen Ellyn
Narnia	Walter & Marianne B.	Ingleside
Trevor	Mark & Brooke W.	Downers Grove
Ginger	Dorothy & Marvin Y.	Evanston
Emma	Brian & Lori P.	Lake Villa
Manny	Dan & Julie C.	Chicago
Pucker	Eliza Ann M.	Forest Park
Diesel	Scott & Nancy Z.	Evanston
Lucas	Daniel & Connie H.	Bartlett
Juliet	Rod C.	Chicago
Tinkerbelle	Jodi & Elmer S.	Gurnee
Stanley	Don & Lana K.	Niles
Piper	Margery S.	Deerfield
Romeo	Anthony M.	Tinley Park
Paulie	Donna T.	LaGrange Park
Jimmy Beam	Nancy-Ann Z.	Evanston
Ginny	Elizabeth & Brandon K.	Aurora
Ozzie	Holly M.	North Aurora
Windsor	Vikki H.	Downers Grove
Basil	Suzette & Ben J.	Round Lake
Hillary	Amie & Darryl S.	Chicago
Jarred	Jim & Lora S.	Elmwood Park
Ellen	Matt & Ann N.	Chicago
Chip	Ruth & Martin M.	Buffalo Grove
Booker	Mary & Thomas C.	Gurnee
Delilah	Pam D.	Lyons
Martini	Rise T.	Evanston
Ben	John & Kathy C.	Mt. Prospect
Jackson	Jill A.	Crystal Lake
Fawn	Tom & Mary W.	Plainfield
Guinness	Catherine & Pary P.	Plainfield
Brutus	Joan & John R.	Chicago
Scarlett	Mary M.	Chicago
Kristen	Trina S.	Lisle
Torino	Thomas. & Jenell W.	Plainfield
Madison	Amy & Patrick C.	Chicago
J.B.	Chris & Carrie T.	Chicago
Corona	Florence H.	Chicago
Rufus	Catherine & Michael A.	Zion
Boris	Mary & Tom C.	Chicago
Monique	Robert & Yvonne C.	Orland Park
Cooper	Mike & Jenny G.	Villa Park
Tad	Jen E.	Chicago
Quincy	Kelly B.	Chicago
Spring	Laura M.	Montgomery
Pete	Nick P.	Chicago
Taylor	John & Melissa K.	Darien
Houston	Tina & Gary K.	Montgomery
Owen.	Beth & Mike C.	Naperville
Hobbs	Julie P.	Chicago
Bailey/Kessler	Amanda & Craig P.	Algonquin
Wendy	Tamara & Ed M.	Waukegan
Sonny	Courtney M.	Chicago
Bandit	Jason H.	Des Plaines

Volunteer Spotlight

Pam Short MLRR would like to thank Pam Short for assisting us in saving so many wonderful Labs. Though Pam is not officially an MLRR volunteer, she is always ready to help. It is not uncommon for us to receive at least one email a day about a Lab in need. Pam not only alerts MLRR to dogs in kill-shelters in need of rescue, she also makes sure all of their medical is done and assists with transports. Pam is the proud owner of a rescued Lab (not to mention other rescued pets in her home). Thank you Pam for all your help rescuing these wonderful Labs!!

The Gift

*Eyes fearful, paws worn
A sorrowful sight
So forlorn.*

*Love they said would be the cure
For the suffering
You had to endure.*

*So our family grew that day
We brought you home
With us you'd stay*

*Slowly, gently the bond it grew
Faithful, loyal
Loving, true.*

*Looking back it's so unclear
How we got by
Without you here.*

*Trusted companion, devoted friend
You give and give
It never ends.*

*They said we were a gift to you
But now we know
Who rescued who.*

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Dog Friendly Areas

Dog Friendly Areas (or DFAs) are becoming more prevalent and more popular with dog owners. Fortunately many cities and towns are realizing the importance of giving dogs a place to play and socialize off-leash in a safe environment. Most parks require some type of permit or license, and many require proof of vaccinations. The following is a sampling of some dog parks in the Chicago area. It is not all-inclusive.

Chicago

Annual fee of \$5 per dog and written proof of current vaccinations and fecal test for parasites.

For more information visit

www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

Locations:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Wiggly Field | 2645 N. Sheffield |
| 2. Walsh Park | 1722 N. Ashland |
| 3. Wicker Park | 1425 N. Damen |
| 4. Hamlin Park | 3035 N. Damen |
| 5. Margate Park | 4921 N. Marine Dr. |
| 6. Coliseum Park | 14 th & Wabash |
| 7. Churchill Park | 1825 N. Damen |
| 8. Challenger Park | 1101 W. Irving Park Rd. |
| 9. Montrose Beach | Wilson St. & the Lake |
| 10. Grant Park | Columbus Dr & 9 th St (new in 2006) |
| 11. River Park | 5100 N. Francisco Ave. |

Evanston/Skokie

Pooch Park

Located at Channelside Park, east bank of the North Shore Channel, between Main & Oakton St.

Hours are 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily.

Permits are required, as is proof of vaccinations and proof of spay/neuter.

For more information visit www.skokieparkdistrict.org



Pooch Park offers a small agility area

Evanston Dog Beach

Located just north of the Church Street launch facility, where Church St. meets the lake. The dog beach is open from 7 am to 8 pm, May through October, weather permitting. Dog beach token required (2005 rate \$40 per dog for Evanston resident).

For more information visit

www.cityofevanston.org/departments/parks/beach_dog

Lake County

Lake County offers four Dog Exercise Areas:

Duck Farm Forest Preserve	Lindenhurst
Lakewood Forest Preserve	Wauconda
Prairie Wolf Forest Preserve	Lake Forest
Independence Grove	Libertyville

Daily permits are \$5 for Lake County residents and available at a self-pay station located in the parking lot of each Dog Exercise Area. Annual permits are \$44 for the first dog (Lake County residents) and \$18 for each additional dog in the same household.

For more information visit www.lcfdp.org

DuPage County

DuPage County offers six off-leash dog areas:

Blackwell Forest Preserve	Warrenville
East Branch Forest Preserve	Glendale Heights
Greene Valley Forest Preserve	Naperville
Mallard Lake Forest Preserve	Hanover Park
Mayslake Forest Preserve	Oak Brook
Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve	Wayne
Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve	Naperville

Yearly permits for owners who are county residents are \$35 per year for the first dog and \$5 per year for each additional dog (\$5 per dog for a daily permit).

For more information visit

www.dupageforest.com/recreation/Dogs/dogs.html

West and South

Batavia:

Fermilab Dog Exercise Area and Bike Path

Located 1.5 miles South of Illinois Route 38 (Roosevelt Rd) and 1.5 miles North of Illinois Route 56 (Butterfield Road), just west of Illinois Route 59

Open 9 am to 5 pm

Homewood-Floosmoor:

Rover's Run

SE corner of Apollo Park at 191st St. near Center St.
Annual Membership Fee: \$15 resident/\$25 non-resident.
Dogs must be healthy, fully immunized, de-wormed, licensed and wearing tags. Open daily dawn to dusk.

Plainfield Township:

Van Horne Woods Park

East side of Van Horne Woods at Caton Farm Rd near Interstate Hwy 55.

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Success Stories

Maya (formerly Faye)

Maya has been the most wonderful addition to our family - we love her so very much! We are constantly telling others about what an amazing dog she is... she has more personality than any dog I've ever met. From the day we brought her home, she has never had an accident or chewed anything or gotten into anything... people don't believe us, but she is so good! We play fetch every morning and afternoon, so she stays in great shape and very happy - she LIVES to fetch! Thank you, Midwest Labs, for your role in bringing Maya into our lives. She truly is a blessing for which we are thankful each and every day.



Maya

Dempsey (formerly Hershey)

I'm in my sixth week of obedience school, and my parents say that I was the star of class last week! I've learned sit, down, stay, stand, leave it, and let's go and I get better at each of them every day! But even more importantly, I've gotten really comfortable in my new home and with my mom and dad's routine. My favorite place to be is cuddled up on my couch with mom or dad or both and one of my kongs. I have a little girlfriend named Alice. She is a Weimaraner who lives in the apartment downstairs. I love to run around with her in the yard. I also learned how to play fetch, which didn't make sense to me when I first went home with my new family. The only bad thing is that I have had to go to the vet several times. Mom and dad think I have allergies, but they're working with my vet to get them under control. I love my new forever family, and they tell me that they love me and couldn't imagine life without me all the time. Thank you for helping me to find a home!



Dempsey

Book Review:

"Marley & Me"

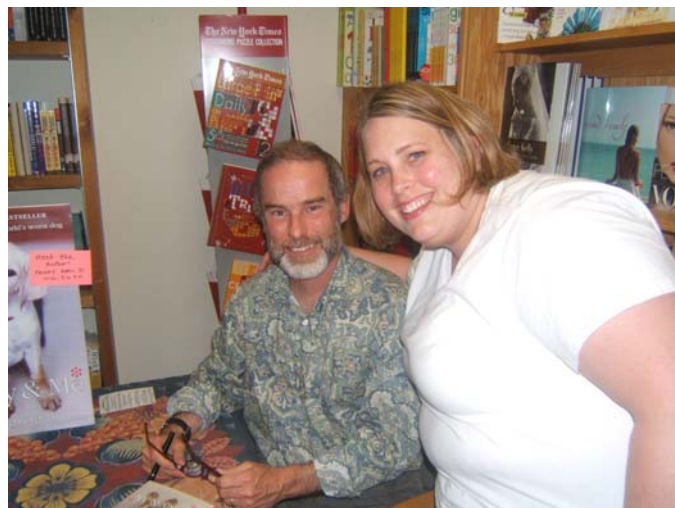
By John Grogan, 2005

Review by Neil and Karen Kuenn, MLRR adopters



If you are a dog lover, especially cherishing your Labrador Retriever, RUN to your nearest bookstore to get your forever-copy of John Grogan's *Marley & Me*. This delightful best-seller, number 1 for the first three months of 2006, must be added to your library as a definite keeper. You'll laugh, you'll cry, but above all you'll relate to the antics that Marley puts his family through for all thirteen years of his life. While reading it, you'll want to hug your own Lab as we did with our Buster and Duke, appreciating every minute that they are part of our family as they give their unconditional love.

You can read even more about Marley and share your own stories at John Grogan's web site www.marleyandme.com



MLRR volunteer Maggie C. met author John Grogan (above) and got a signed copy of *Marley & Me*. Maggie plans to donate the signed book to the MLRR Silent Auction which will be held on May 21st.

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Thanks To Our Donors

Craig N.	Rebenson Christmas donation	Jennifer B.	All State Giving Campaign
Gerald G.	Rebenson Christmas donation	Kenneth W. Jr.	
Steven R.	Rebenson Christmas donation	Robert & Donna Marie T.	in memory of Herc
C & G Associates	Rebenson Christmas donation	Barbara R.	
Michelle & Dale V.	Rebenson Christmas donation	Diane G.	
Alan & Nancy N.	Rebenson Christmas donation	Greg & Meg B.	
Maura & Tim O.	Rebenson Christmas donation	Kathleen & Edward C.	
James L.	Rebenson Christmas donation	Katherine S.	
John & Debra B.	Rebenson Christmas donation	Rosemary P.	
Robert M.	Rebenson Christmas donation	Michael B.	Boscoe
John L.	Rebenson Christmas donation	Anna D.	Boscoe
Jan K.	Rebenson Christmas donation	Carol & Mike H.	in lieu of spay refund
Matthew & Theresa R.		Jennifer & George P.	in lieu of neuter refund
Mark & Linda N.	In honor of Murphy	Amy H.	
Joe A.		Holly L.	Abbott Labs employee match
Linda P.		Mike & Debbie S.	in memory of Elliot J.
Gorter Family Found.		Francine C.	Boscoe's surgery expenses
Jewel Shop & Share	Shop & Share	Charles & Cathryn T.	in honor of Mulder
Joe B.		Amy D.	Boscoe
Shawn & Ellen J.	Rebenson Christmas donation	M. Kim N.	in honor of Daniel
Laura T.		Richard O.	
Tribune Foundation	employee match for Catherine B.	Peter M.	Boscoe's surgery
Laura & Scott L.		James D.	in honor of Lisa B., MD
Frederica & Tom H.	in hon. of Dexx's 6th birthday	M.E. F.	
Gina G.		Linda S.	
Burt M.		Mark & Cynthia M.	
Angela K.		James L.	
Lisa B.	donation for Maya's boarding	Paul & Karen H.	
iGive.com Holdings		Karen M.	
Tony A.		James & Connie J.	in honor of a milestone birthday
John and Sandra S.	in honor of Van's fourth birthday	Beverly & Ernest F.	for Ernest
Julie J.		Jan A.	in honor of Ron from West
John & Linda D.	in honor of Macanudo	Carol G.	Elementary School
Elizabeth O.	in honor of Elliott J.	Carol K.	in honor of Molly K.
Glenn & Katherine F.	on behalf of Amy, Kevin & Zeus	Melissa & Joseph R.	Angus
Happy Dog Barkery	customer donations	Gwenneth G.	helping Angus
McDonald's Corp	matching gift from Kathleen K.	Rose & Joseph C.	in honor of Misty
Becky O.		Barbara & Jonathan E.	for Bosco
Katherine & Romana K.		Mike & Susan C.	medication for Marshall
Garry & Michele G.		Gail T.	Angus
Lisa K.		Maggie W.	Angus' vet bills
James and Aileen Z.	stamps & computer paper		
Paige W.	All State Giving Campaign		
Michael L.	All State Giving Campaign		
James M.	All State Giving Campaign		
Chuck & Maribel G.	All State Giving Campaign		
Valerie L.	All State Giving Campaign		
Ottertail Farm	Ottertail Lab Art		
D. Nikki S.	in memory of Sunny		
Judy & Dan K.	in memory of Gertrude J.		
Anonymous	All State Giving Campaign		



Angus

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Wish List

MLRR is always in need of the following:

- * "Frontline" Flea Preventative
- * Heartworm preventative (*ie.* Heartgard or Interceptor)
- * First class postage
- * Gift certificates to pet supply stores
- * Collars (large, snap-type)
- * Laser printer paper
- * Envelopes
- * Cash donations
- * More volunteers and foster homes!

Save the Date: MLRR Reunion

The MLRR 6th Annual Reunion will be held on Saturday **September 23, 2006**. This year it will again be held at a forest preserve in southern Lake County. More information will be coming later this summer!

News and Events

Mark your calendar now!

2nd Annual Silent Auction (and Champagne Tea)

Sunday May 21, 2006

1:00-5:00 p.m.

Location: Celtic Knot

626 Church St., Evanston

We're going Irish this year with a traditional Irish Champagne Tea. Enjoy sandwiches, hor d'ouerves, pastries, mimosas, and, of course, tea.

We will have many exciting items for you to bid on in the silent auction.

\$30 per person -- payable at the door

RSVP to mail@midwestlabrescue.org

All proceeds benefit MLRR

25th Annual Heritage Festival

Saturday June 24 and Sunday 25

10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Downers Grove, IL, near Ogden and Main Streets

MLRR will have a booth at this LARGE neighborhood festival featuring a craft show, food vendors, a car show and a carnival. We will be selling fundraising merchandise, collecting donations, and handing out information about Lab rescue.

For more information visit:

<http://visitor.vil.downers-grove.il.us/fest/index.htm>

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Lombard, IL
Permit No. 288

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