

Tales of Gold

Tropical Storm Shelby

by Pam Strickland



What a difference a year makes!

In April 2010, Marcia McGovern, then the GRRMF Foster Coordinator, sent out an email in search of a hospice foster home for a 6-year-old golden girl. She had a cancerous tumor on her elbow and in spite of doctors trying surgery more than once, it came back with a vengeance.

I responded immediately. I was the hospice foster home in 2004 for another golden, Trooper, who was flown down from the Northeast. While we knew anything we did was strictly palliative, Trooper enjoyed an extra 10 months of life. That is what I wanted for this girl named Shelby.

The tumor was dreadful. Truly one of the ugliest things I have ever seen. I tried to channel my inner MacGyver and come up with ways to keep it wrapped without turning Shelby into a mummy but nothing worked. Frustration led me to wonder, "What if we amputate her leg?" Would it be curative? I knew that in the case of an osteosarcoma, amputation was merely an option for pain but Shelby's cancer was a soft tissue sarcoma.

Marcia and I started brainstorming. I had read countless times that amputation might in fact, be curative. As long as radiographs did not show any obvious signs of metastasis, she might be a great candidate for the surgery. Days later, Marcia and I sat

in Dr. Ehlers' office at 434 Animal Hospital (Longwood, FL) on pins and needles waiting to hear – NO evidence of metastasis. What beautiful words those were!

The next week, we took Shelby down to see Dr. Kimberley Cox at Tampa Bay Veterinary Specialists. She agreed that Shelby would be a good candidate for amputation. She was young, happy and had an amazing spirit. Everything about Shelby said – go for it!

On July 2, 2010, Shelby officially became a *TriPawd*. I had joined an online support group for folks with 3-legged dogs called Tripawds.com. It was an amazing source of strength, comfort and knowledge. I drowned myself in reading as much as I could and was prepared. Friends loaned me the use of their ex-pens. Another friend purchased a special orthopedic bed for Shelby. We were ready.

My TriPawd support group told me the first couple of weeks might be a bit rough but once her stitches came out, she would be ready to roll and they weren't kidding! It amazes me to this day how this beautiful girl has adapted. She does not feel sorry for herself, so why should I? She runs faster than my three other girls and can easily scale a three foot ledge on my BBQ pit.

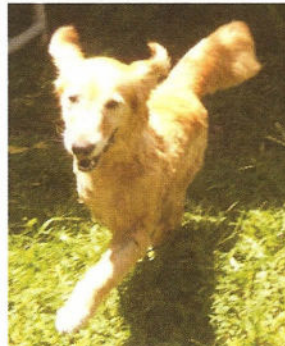
Shelby and I recently began training with PJ Lacette of Best Paw Forward. It is my hope that she can pass her CGC and work toward becoming a certified therapy dog. I envision her at the Veterans Administration Hospital, working her magic.

In closing, here is the best news of all – Shelby is still CANCER FREE! It just doesn't get better than that, does it?



Shelby home and resting after surgery.

Stitches out in two weeks and ready for therapy.



Playing with her sister Phoebe. One month post op and having a good run.

A Special Golden, A Special Gift: Roxi's Cousins

GRRMF is proud to announce an enhancement of the Woody Fund for Special Needs Golden Retrievers called "Roxi's Cousins". This special fund will help pay for treatment of dogs in our care that have been diagnosed with cancer, such as Shelby who is featured in our lead article.



As many of you know, many golden retrievers are faced with fighting this dreaded disease, and rescue dogs are no exception. Sometimes there are surgeries, drug therapies, or holistic options to help extend the life of a cancer dog while providing a good quality of life.



Roxi beginning her wonderful adopted life with Debbie.

The donations designated to the Woody Fund Roxi's Cousins will help cover veterinary costs of GRRMF foster dogs diagnosed with cancer.



Roxi loved enjoying free time in her back yard.

So who is Roxi you ask? Well, she is one of the all time most famous dogs in rescue, adopted in May 2000 by Debbie McGhehey in Clearwater (Debbie is our West Coast Fundraising/Event Coordinator).

Roxi lived to be the ripe old age of 14. Prior to her passing on May 4, 2011, Roxi underwent several months of treatment for cancer, which prolonged her life. While there were ups and downs along the way, Debbie was completely devoted to Roxi and she enjoyed a good quality of life during her treatment. In the process of learning and dealing with Roxi's cancer treatments, Debbie has developed a true passion for helping dogs in similar circumstances. As a result, Debbie provided a generous seed money donation to fund "Roxi's Cousins" in memory of Roxi and her journey.

Please consider making a donation today to Roxi's Cousins and help us treat goldens in our program who are diagnosed with cancer. They all need a champion – they all deserve a chance.

Please take a moment to visit our website where you will find a detailed article and tribute to Roxi's wonderful life.

Rainbow Bridge

We extend our hearts and sympathy to all our GRRMF families that have lost a loving companion the past few months. We thank you for opening your hearts and doors, giving a second chance to those who needed you to come into their lives just when you did.

■ Maggie & Tim Stambaugh and Jake Brubacker family, **Sam**

■ Claus & Pat Hulsemann, **Princess (formerly Michelle)**

■ Elizabeth & Brian Heaphy, **Morgan**

■ John & Tammy Holecsek, **Dakota**

■ Ann Bernick, **Darbee**

■ Judy Ladney, **Miss Goofy**

■ Lisa McGrew, **Beau**

■ Debbie McGhehey, **Bubba & Foxi Roxi**

We recognize the loss of two wonderful friends of GRRMF:

■ Mr. **Robert R. Shappel** passed away this past December. Mr. Shappel supported GRRMF through his donations and was the father to two GRRMF alumni, Charlie and Sandy. He adored his dogs as they adored him.

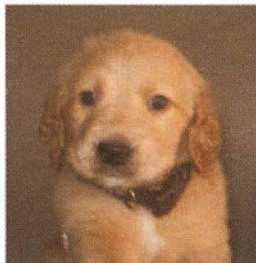
■ Mrs. **Susan Fulenwider** of the Mid-Florida Retriever Club passed away recently from cancer. Susan was an avid supporter of rescue over many years and a key leader in MFGRC. She will be greatly missed by all of us.



Update on Ruby and Her Litter of Puppies!

On February 17, 2011, a sweet red golden girl named Ruby gave birth to eight puppies. The very next day, she was turned into rescue. GRRMF scrambled to find foster space and gratefully, Debbie Young and family stepped in for the first two weeks while we located another foster willing to take in Ruby for the remaining six weeks until the pups were ready for adoption. A plea went out to the Mid Florida

Golden Retriever Club (our wonderful friends that offer grooming at all our annual reunions) to find someone qualified to take care of Ruby. As we say in rescue, "we don't know nothin' about birthin' no babies!" Gratefully Patti Moeller and Steve McCrorie volunteered to foster Ruby and her puppies for the remaining six weeks until they were ready for adoption. Patti and Steve had previous experience in whelping litters and it showed. With great love and affection, mama and pups received meticulous care.



Two of Ruby's cute, happy, and healthy puppies that found their new forever homes.



Our adoption team vaulted into high gear, responding to all the adoption applications received once we posted the pups on our website. It was a huge effort to get all nine applicants screened, approved, and ready to go by the time the pups would reach eight weeks old and be ready for their new families.

Adoption day came and many happy families went home with the cutest love bugs you've ever seen! All reports are they are settling nicely into their new homes.

Thank you to everyone who helped with Ruby, especially Marcia McGovern, who worked so hard to get the owners to surrender these dogs to us. Now all eight puppies will be spayed and neutered at six months old (adopters sign a legally binding contract requiring it), and the cycle of breeding will be stopped. Thanks to Kerri, Sandy, Michelle, Renee, Leslie G. and Leslie W., all our adoption phone team screeners, and all our home visit volunteers that helped make these adoptions possible.

GOLDEN ADOPTIONS!



Jack, at just two years old, found himself listed by his owners in a 'Free to Good Home' ad

and ultimately turned over to GRRMF. This was the beginning of a good life for Jack as Kelly and Mike E., who showered him with love before even getting in the door of his foster home, quickly adopted him. The feeling was mutual as Jack showed total comfort and a never-ending wagging tail.

Ginger was surrendered at one year old because there were too many dogs in the house and they did not have time for her. Diane M. fell in love and adopted this active bundle of golden energy. Diane is happy to have this wonderful addition to her life and we are sure Ginger feels the same regarding Diane.

Nika was turned into rescue at 12 years old because her owner could no longer care for her. Liz and David W. who think she is a wonderful "young" gal quickly adopted her. Her new family said they are totally in love with her. They said she loves sitting on her doggie ottoman and watching the birds and boats go by.



Katie was surrendered at six years old because she digs. Katie was adopted by Mary W. who loves this wonderful girl and couldn't be happier with her.

Belle is a beautiful nine year old who was passed around by family members until she was finally surrendered to GRRMF.



Her foster took her to hold until a run could go to DVGRR but Belle was just too sweet. Her foster Mom asked if she could keep her until a good home would come along. Well, the perfect home

didn't take long at all, along came Michael and his 13 1/2 year old Zoe who needed a friend. Belle is fitting in to her new home very nicely and is still walking around with the stuffed animal that rarely leaves her mouth.

Frances was turned into rescue at 11 years old because of a child's allergies. She was adopted by Rosalind G. and is doing great in her new home. She is one lucky girl!

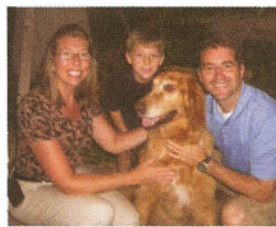
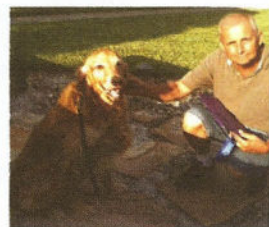


Lexi was turned into rescue at two years old because her family had no time for her and no money to care for her. Lexi was adopted by Michele M. who let us know that their tall and timid Lexi is very loving and adjusting well to her new forever home.



Harley2 was only 14 months old when surrendered by his owner. His tail had been amputated after an accident, became infected, and the family couldn't afford Harley's expensive and immediate medical care to save his life. GRRMF stepped in and rescued Harley2 and got him the expert care he needed to save his life. Dustin and Sarah D. fell in love with tailless Harley2 and swooped in to adopt him giving him the love, attention, and forever home he so richly deserves.

Shadow lost his home due to a divorce that required a move to rental property that didn't allow big dogs. The C. Family adopted this blond and beautiful eight-year-old boy, and think he is the best companion ever! He's been accompanying them to their son's soccer games, the pet store, yogurt shop – he'll go anywhere! He enjoys sleeping in their son's room at night and has already bonded to his forever family.



Merlin, eight years old, was surrendered to GRRMF by an owner who had 10 foster children at home. Merlin found a wonderful "forever home" with John E. where he can now enjoy a more stable environment. He is definitely thriving with John at his side sharing loving attention, walks, swim-

ming, and peaceful nights. Merlin is a very lucky boy.

Charlie found himself in rescue at two years old when his family didn't have enough time for this young boy's needs. Joanne and Dave N., our transport volunteers who took Charlie to the vet, quickly adopted him. During the drive, Charlie convinced them that he should be a permanent member of their family and the feeling was mutual. Charlie now has his forever mom and dad in Joanne and Dave.



Timber, a beautiful four-year-old obedience champion, found his whole world fall apart when his owner passed away. Kim L who adopted Timber says she "in love" with this wonderful golden boy. Kim and Timber are inseparable, going everywhere together (fun walks in the neighborhood, and accompanies Kim to various appointments). Kim and Timber look forward to becoming a therapy dog team in the near future.

Jake and **Maggie**, both six years old, were turned into GRRMF together because the owner could no longer afford to care for them. We are happy to report they were adopted together by Teresa and Mike C., who report they are both doing wonderfully and are on a diet to improve their health (both were overweight). At first, Jake could barely walk a few blocks at 133 pounds. Now he's up to walking 2 miles and more. Maggie has reached her goal weight and Jake has a just a few more pounds to go. Both have graduated from obedience training and Teresa and Mike believe (of course!) that their new dogs were the brightest students in the class. Jake and Maggie are definitely getting positive love and attention and are thriving in their new forever home. Thank you Teresa and Mike for your loving attention to their health. May your efforts yield many extended years of companionship together!



GOLDEN ADOPTIONS!

Blake who now goes by Mickey, is a very energetic six month old who became too much to handle for his previous owner. GRRMF took him in and promised to find him a family who could handle his energetic love of life. Along came Gerald & Pat S. who fell in love with and adopted their wonderful bundle of energy.



Kitrini, who now goes by Mandy, was surrendered to rescue at seven years old because her family was never home to

give her the attention she craved and deserved. Her new parents are Donna B and Kevin K. who are prior GRRMF adoptors. Mandy's new loving family setting finds her with a golden sister Tilly as well as the family's birds, all in a paradise setting on Amelia Island.

Nugget is a young energy filled one year old that came to rescue in need of someone to provide him with the love and guidance he needed. Kari M. came to the rescue and Nugget was the perfect fit for her. He has settled in wonderfully and Kari says he is AWESOME! In addition, they send a big thank you out to everyone at GRRMF!

Daisy was turned in by owners that were required to travel extensively out of town. They wanted the best for this wonderful two and a half year old with the love and stability they felt she should have. Martyne & David E. met Daisy and it was love at first sight. This sweet little girl has found her forever home.



Fun at the 20th Anniversary Rescue Reunion

by Kimberly Elman, GRRMF Board Member

Our annual reunion took place Saturday, February 25, 2011, at Lake Parker Park in Lakeland. We are thrilled to report that the weather cooperated, attendance was fantastic, and the all vendors and food were great! We had 200 humans and 136 goldens in attendance! We couldn't have asked for a better day, with plenty of fun and activities for both the goldens and their families!

As always, **Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club** did a fabulous job grooming the dogs, so they were ready to sit pretty for their portraits by Laura Allen Studios. Laura brought her mobile photography studio, and took some gorgeous pictures of our golden alumni and their families.

Canine Comfort Pet Massage and Puppy Love Therapy provided canine massage. We are glad they were there, as there were many tired goldens who participated in the annual games and frolicked with their other four-legged friends!

Josh's Firehouse Treats and **Life's Abundance** passed out samples and information on healthy eating for our allergy prone goldens. Sonny's BBQ provided fresh, hot off the grill hamburgers and hot dogs to our hard-working volunteers, vendors, and the human participants.

Our **Golden Goods Store** had a number of new items for sale and took in record-breaking sales! Our annual Raffle was a huge success! Nancy Francis did a fabulous job soliciting businesses for donations, which resulted in our most successful raffle in history!

Our wonderful DJ, **Dick Raymond**, was on hand to keep the hits spinning and help us with all our announcements.

We were privileged to have a very special guest join us for this year's event. **Sarah Davis**, founding member of rescue and our first President, flew in from St. Louis to help us celebrate our 20th Anniversary. Sarah was one of the key people responsible for starting GRRMF and we were thrilled to have her there. Her determination is the reason we are so successful many years later.

At each reunion, GRRMF presents the Annual Hearts of Gold Award for volunteer of the year. The 2010 recipient was Leslie Godwin, who works as an adoption coordinator. Leslie has done a terrific job learning the draft of adoptions and we are so happy to have her help. A special award of merit was presented to Bert and Charlie Haker for all their efforts in fostering dogs requiring a high level of post surgical care. We also recognized key volunteers in each area by designating them "Top Dog" award winners.

TOP DOG AWARD WINNERS:

Adoptions: Michelle Freeman, Devin Contessa, Lynne Halleran, Kerri Vorhies, Mary Ann & Dick Newton, Cathy Schultz
Education: Pat & Bill Shepard, Becky Stone, Tara Spake

Communications/Administrative:

Judy Ladney

Fundraising: Debbie McGhehey,

Janet Thompson

Transportation: Sue Angle, John Foss, Margy Santino

Fostering: Gregg & Tom Eddie, Lori & Ken Cubbedge, Dan & Vanessa Hardy, Tommy & Chris Manley, Rob Kennan and Amy Tishkoff, Pam Strickland, Kathy and Brad Lawniczak

Youth: Aaron and Daniel Kennon
Treasury Administration: Carol Avey, Beth Scott, Tricia Meyers

We would also like to take this opportunity to pass on a special thank you to:

- All our volunteers who arrived early and stayed late to help set up and run the various events at the reunion
- Bill and Ellen Lawrence, for transporting all our equipment
- Dave Dillman, for coordinating our games
- All our vendors, who donated both their time and proceeds to raise money for our goldens in foster care
- To everyone who attended and participated in our 20th year celebration
- To all our volunteers, fosters, and adopters for your ongoing help and support

We are proud to be celebrating our 20th year rescuing goldens throughout Florida and know none of what we have accomplished would be possible without your dedication and support!

Thank you again for a wonderful reunion! We look forward to seeing you again at next year's annual reunion - Saturday February 18, 2012!

DONATION THANKS!

Thank you to all our generous donors who make our program possible! Donations received from January through March of 2011.

General Donations

Julie Kohler
Jill & Hugh Berke
Karen P. Weber
Rosemarie & William Wood
Betty Wyatt
Ernestine Thompson
Coralee Leon
Roger & Christina Leggatt
Elizabeth & Dennis Ladd
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Abigail Auer
Catherine Mollon
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For Ruby and Her Puppies

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Jody Devoe
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Mary Robischon
Beth Scott
Chris Covert
Kenneth Rossburg
Anne Folsom
Ralph & Janice Bogle
David Eagle
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Rhonda Kaliban
Judy Jill
Joan Witt
Carol Forsberg
Donald Wiley

Janet Narveaz
Cori Peterson
Lynda Alfson
Dana & Charles Reames
Jonathan Sanderson
Robert Mitchell
Melissa King
Diane McLean
Jennifer Dixon
Nancy Day
Ash Dovel
Judy Santos
Nick Callahan
Janette Hill
John Gould

In Memory Of

Richard & Dani Geisinger,
for Jan Jennings dog Cashew
Cole & Madeline Sayles,
for Chase Brubaker
Henry Smith & Tracy Thomas,
for Aspen
Lawrence Wojcieszowski, for George
Lee Deckard, for Beau, Kelly,
Lex, & Missy
T.J. & Gary Puckett, for Belle
Leslie Friedlander, for Forbes
Kerri Vorhies, for Fiona
Sandra Haddad, for Fiona
Robin Scott, for Tally
Dawn & Tom Kelly for Casey
Louise Detorres, for Trigger Sendack
Peter & Terry Smith,
for Robert Shappell
Linda Steward, for Kody
Richard & Virginia Withington,
for Beau
Grace Shappell, for her husband
Robert Shappell
Susan Ardouin, for Murphy
Dave & Sue Morgan, for Maggie
Jason Greenman, for Odin
Sandra & Gerald Slayton,
for Heather Bear
Melinda Bell, for Clifford
Janet & Jim Donovan, for Snuggles
James & Joan Kushner, for Kelsey
Ralph & Janice Bogle,
for Odie, Phoenix, & Reggie
Barbara Dishozy, for Hunter I
Colleen & Rick Soster, for Bubba
Richard & Mary Newton,
for Miss Libby
Jay & Bobbie Young,
for Robert Shappell

In Memory of Susan Fulenwider

Debra Finch
Nancy Nook
Betty Wyatt
Ron Rubrecht

In Honor of

Debra Smith, for Scout
Lynne Brubaker, for Sam
Johnann Goines, for Jewell McDonald
James & Priscilla Dolan, for Colby
Jonathan Sanderson, for Finn
Susan Smith (for her retirement),
on behalf of the employees
of Green's Energy Services
Lynnett & Lew Wadsworth,
for Mary Ann Callahan's Birthday

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Dorothy Hanrahan
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on behalf of Glenda Selby
Saint Gobain Corporation
Foundation on behalf
of Linda-Marie Holliday

Alumni Update: My Boy Brando

by Christine Lowry

I wanted everyone to see a recent photo of my dear Brando. He is the kindest mama's boy that ever lived. In his photo, he is wearing the bra he wore for this year's Susan B. Komen walk. He wore it without fuss for an hour and 45 minutes while we waited for a friend to stop at our cheer station. He was the hit of the place! All the walkers either patted him or took his photo. He is very loving and loved very much. I promise you that he and I have represented GRRMF rescue efforts well.



We at GRRMF think all our goldens are excellent representatives of why we volunteer and work so hard to match well deserving pets and people. We love hearing stories such as this one as it warms our hearts to be reminded of the continued efforts by all our families who fulfill our promise of a forever loving home to each golden that comes to us.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE OF MID-FLORIDA
PLEASE HELP THE GOLDENS IN OUR CARE -- YOUR DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED!

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☐ In Memory Of: _____ \$ _____ ☐ In Honor Of: _____ \$ _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

Mail form and check to: GRRMF, PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733 or donate via credit card at www.grrmf.org.

GRRMF is a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization. Donations are tax deductible. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling Toll-Free (800-435-7532) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state #CH11185.

GRRMF CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Volunteering: volunteers@grrmf.org; **Fundraising:** fundraising@grrmf.org

Home visits: homevisits@grrmf.org; **Transports:** transports@grrmf.org

Newsletter Editor: grrmfnewsletter@gmail.com

Calendar Photo Submissions: grrmfcalendar@gmail.com



Take Your Best Shot NOW! and send it to us for the 2012 GRRMF Calendar!

NOW is the time to send us your calendar pictures! We will be starting production in just two months. **We need more pictures!** Our calendar fundraiser is our biggest of the year so by submitting photos to create a great calendar you will help us raise funds. You can read more about submitting calendar photos on our website. **Please submit your pictures or questions to grrmfcalendar@gmail.com.**

Goldens Saved so Far since 1991: 2,700
Celebrating our 20th anniversary in 2011!



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