

**BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS FOR BEGINNERS AND BEYOND**  
**A WATER WORKSHOP CONDUCTED BY DEBORAH LEE MILLER-RILEY**

Do you want to start your young star correctly for water work? Have you ever wanted to teach your dog to retrieve a dummy from the water but you did not know how? Have you wondered how to teach your pal to joyfully leap from the platform of a boat into the water? Have you wanted to put a PWDC (Portuguese Water Dog Club of America) water title on your best friend but did not know where to begin? Are you trying to build foundation skills for the next titling level? Do thoughts of the Buoy Ball keep you awake at night? Is your water training turning into a sea battle? Or are you just preparing for your next PWD puppy?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, then do we have a workshop for you! I am ecstatic to announce Deborah Lee Miller-Riley will be conducting a two-day workshop (four hours each day) on Saturday, July 5, and Sunday, July 6, 2008. Although auditing spots will be unlimited, working spots will be limited to eight teams. The working spots will fill very quickly so please complete and mail the Reservation Form at the end of the article ASAP. The workshop will be conducted at Sterling Lake in Wadsworth, Illinois. After the workshop concludes on Sunday, Deborah Lee will judge a limited-entry Junior and Apprentice PWDC Water Trial. (One is not required to attend the Workshop to enter the Water Trial.)

Deborah Lee's workshop will focus on building basic skills for all title levels from Junior to Courier. The emphasis will be on positive reinforcement, building confidence, and proofing learned behaviors. It is intended for trainers with no experience and for trainers who have successfully titled their PWD at the CWDX level. Deborah Lee's basic building blocks apply to all levels of training from Junior to Courier. The workshop will be a fantastic start for a beginning dog and a terrific way to polish the skills of a more advanced PWD. At the same time, we will be having fun. What more could anyone ask?

Criteria for working spots: Handlers should be at least 12 years old. Dogs should be in good health, with current rabies vaccine, and at least twelve weeks old. Dogs must be able to demonstrate social tolerance for other dogs and people. Dogs who demonstrate inappropriate growling, snapping or who make aggressive contact with people or dogs may be asked to leave. Bitches may not participate when they are in-season.

Deborah Lee Miller-Riley has shared her life with animals for over 50 years. Deborah Lee's first PWD, Badge (a very active brown Portuguese Water Dog puppy) adopted her in 1986. Badge was soon joined by another PWD, the unsinkable Mollie Brown. Both dogs were true to the breed's middle name and were crazed about the water.

Inspired by the desire to share activities with her zealous water dogs and to maintain the useful working attributes of the breed, Deborah Lee created a series of noncompetitive PWD water tests for the Nutmeg PWDC in 1989. A few years later the first National PWD Water Trial, which Deborah Lee was instrumental in creating and writing, was accepted by the PWDC. Deborah Lee has chaired and served on both local and national PWD Water Committees and been an enthusiastic volunteer at local and national water trials since 1990. She organized the first local water training workshops and training classes for Portuguese Water Dogs and later organized all-

breed workshops. In 1999 she hosted her first all breed Watersports Camp and by 2001, Canine Water Sports -- for all kinds of dogs, was made a reality. Deborah Lee has been a watersports instructor since 1993 and proudly serves as a national watersports judge for Canine Water Sports and the PWDCA. Deborah Lee's web site, from which much of this information has been paraphrased, is [www.caninewatersports.com](http://www.caninewatersports.com).

Strongly influenced by the teachings of Dr. Ian Dunbar, Karen Pryor, Suzanne Clothier, Dr. Patricia McConnell, Jean Donaldson and the work of pioneer animal behaviorists Bob & Marian Bailey, Deborah Lee's training methods are based on the principles of operant conditioning, with positive reinforcement being the preferred consequence for behavior. Her training philosophies include:

- Training is a shared adventure whose primary goal is bring harmony, order, purpose and wisdom to the inter-species relationship. Wise trainers know the healthiest and happiest relationships are earned through interactions that achieve joyful cooperation, creativity and contentment.
- Causing pain and or fear in the name of training does not ask for cooperation, it demands submission. Is submission something you demand of a friend, of one who is loved?
- Praiseworthy moments abound when the focus is on progress not perfection.
- Learn to play and play to learn. Play is FUNdamental to canine learning.
- Intelligence, health, structure, temperament, innate drives and experience effect behavior and the ease in which dogs learn our desire. Appreciate what makes a dog unique and learn what makes your dog happy, this knowledge will aid you when applying the principles of operant conditioning to your teaching program.

To once again quote Deborah Lee's web site in closing, "A bonus to enjoying a healthy, rich relationship with our dogs is the opportunity to earn titles and awards in dog sports. Water Sports offers teams another avenue to explore canine potential, to enrich a relationship, and to earn recognition. Water loving dogs enjoy learning to be a useful member of a Water Sports team, especially when provided with a safe, compulsion-free environment and a trainer who maximizes the use of well-timed, positive reinforcements. A good Water Sports foundation includes the teaching of core concepts like: swim, swim with a person, retrieve, deliver, tow, submerge, jump off a platform/boat and wet scent work. Inspiring Joy, Desire and Ability is the path to mastership of these behaviors."

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**RESERVATION FORM (July 5 & 6, 2008)**

**Please print clearly!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

PWD Call Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PWD Age: \_\_\_\_\_

PWD Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Rabies Vacc. Current until: \_\_\_\_\_

PWDCA Titles: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Titles: \_\_\_\_\_

What do you hope to learn from this workshop? \_\_\_\_\_

Working Spot: \_\_\_\_\_ Auditing Spot: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop Fees:**

Working Spot for PWDCGC Member:	\$35.00
Working Spot for non-PWDCGC Member:	\$50.00
Auditing Spot (Member & Non-Member):	\$20.00

Please make checks payable to PWDCGC and mail to:

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Mount Prospect, IL 60056-1730

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