

Today's Youth Getting Involved

by Hannah Axley

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Aaron Graham is a 16 year old who encourages other youth to be enthusiastic. He learned about Schutzhund through his father who bought a dog a few years before and found out about the sport. As many do, Aaron gained responsibility with caring for his first dog.

He currently has a dog that he has been working with for two years. The dog received its VP in 2005, its BH and AD in 2006 and its SG in 2006. He hopes to get a SchH1 title on the dog this year.

In the future he looks forward to getting his dog to a SchH3 and becoming a helper. Aaron credits gaining motivation through Michelle Scarberry, while Tim and Kathy Wilmoth have helped with the great dog, and Mark Scarberry and Harry Wagner have helped him with learning to become a helper.

Sydney Wagner is an 11 year old with big hopes for her Malinois, Sweet Pea (Peepers). Sydney grew up with a father who was involved in Schutzhund. Spending hours at both the Chattahoochee Schutzhund Club in Georgia and time at OG Buckeye, she was always around dogs and always enjoyed being with the other kids and watching. She became personally interested in Schutzhund about two years ago when she first started with her father teaching her how to track. She trialed with her dad's German shepherd and at her first trial they scored 100 on their track. She thought it was really fun and went on to trial that dog two more times in tracking. Since then she has started training with Peepers with the help of her dad. Peepers is not currently old enough to trial but she hopes to get her BH in May or June. She then wants to take it one step at a time and go from there. As well as Schutzhund,





her mom has gotten her involved in Agility in which they train Peepers together.

Sydney's favorite part of Schutzhund is obedience. She said she enjoys tracking but it seems as if getting up early wasn't one of the favorite points. Through Schutzhund she has gained confidence and isn't afraid of larger dogs. She also learned that training Peepers is a lot easier than training her dad's German Shepherd because Peepers listens to her a lot better than her dad's dog. She plans to keep Schutzhund as a hobby for the rest of her life and her current personal goal is "making it past the BH alive". We all wish her the best of luck!

Dominic Scarberry is 12 years old and was born into the sport while his mother was pregnant and going for her SchH3 with her Rottweiler. With his dad as a teaching helper and an expert tracker, Tracking and Protection have become his favorite parts of Schutzhund. Both of Dominic's parents are very good trainers and very dedicated to the dog sport.

Moose Von Lindesfarne is Dominic's current dog who has a BH and high hopes for a SchH3 this year. Being his first HOT dog, he put the BH on Moose. He has also shown a dog for FH (Gringo V Malsegg) and a SchH3 dog (Flora V Schloss Veitenstein)

Sydney says she plans to keep schutzhund as a hobby for the rest of her life.

Through Schutzhund Dominic has met many great people. Gary Hanrahan took his time to get him an autographed catalog from the University of Alabama's football team, which Dominic thought was pretty cool. Mike Diehl and his son David have also been two great people he has met. He believes that everyone is like family at OG Buckeye because everyone has always kept him motivated, and are always supportive and always recognizing the achievements of youth members.

Dominic competed in a protection tournament judged by Wayne Simanovich at only 4 years old! He hopes to show his dog in a Championship and eventually in the Nationals. He is currently learning helper work from his dad and would like to become a National level helper. When OG Buckeye has a club trial, the judges usually let Dominic observe with them and make a score which has helped him to learn a lot about judging. He also hopes to obtain his judging license some day. **△ USA**



Dominic and his Dad Mark Scarberry