

To be asked to judge the Weimaraner Association of Canada National Specialty was a true joy and privilege – and an honor.

As with most breeders, I have some qualities I look for in a Weimaraner and will not forgive if these qualities are lacking. I have an “essence” I demand.

Breed type, breed type, breed type -- and, balance, balance, balance are key. The correct Weimaraner should be easily identifiable.

A beautiful silhouette with:

- A lovely neck flowing smoothly into well-laid-back scapula and equally angled upper arm.
- An evident forechest due to the proper angled humerus and proper set of shoulder with a depth of chest and long rib cage flowing smoothly into the tuck up.
- A well-angulated front and rear should be balanced & equal.
- A Topline, firm and smooth with a slight slope ending with the tail carried confidently, coming off the end of the topline with no drop off in croup.
- A length of leg that does not give the appearance of being excess nor short.

Movement is what separates the men from the boys--flowing, effortless and ground covering. What a joy to watch a weimaraner smoothly gaing around the ring--reaching & driving without effort with a commanding presence that says "Look at ME". A Weimaraner should exemplify strength, courage, boldness and should exhibit curiosity rather than fear--but aloofness should never be confused with fear as they all think "I'm smarter than you."

There are of course intangibles. The things one can not put one's finger on as by their very nature, they are not immediately evident. But they involve: heart, courage, protection, mental toughness, being nearly human, undying determination, no quit in them anywhere, an insistence to be a part of your life on a minute to minute basis, and a tremendous desire to work with a human partner in the pursuit and attainment of game.

All of these characteristics are the qualities that create the great ones.

With this in mind, I share with you here, those dogs I awarded that I felt best fit my demands.

Winner's Dog/Best of Winners: Grauschatten Ghostly Encore

This young male would be difficult to fault. He was well balanced with good breedtype, a beautiful headpiece and a good down& back; his side gait showed adequate reach and drive – he was always under control and yet with a good bit of animation. He was definitely in the running for the Breed or BOS right down to the final decision.

Reserve Winners Dog: Echobars Big Red Hammer

A highly promising 6-9 month old puppy with beautiful breed type and a touch of elegance.

Winners Bitch: Nani's Heaven Sent

Her soft expression was a delight as was her confidence in the ring. She exemplified breed type with excellent front and rear assemblies. A perfect "size" -- I liked her conformation! A clean down and back; and, though she is definitely constructed for reach and drive, at the end she appeared to be trying to "get out of Dodge" and was not under control. Unfortunate, because she was very much in "type" with the BOB winner.

Reserve Winners Bitch: Echobars Drama Queen

A highly promising 12 – 18 bitch with beautiful breed type.

Best of Opposite Sex: Ch. Davora's Devil's Paint Brush

He was a young dog with presence. His strong points were his strong, slightly sloping topline, his tail which was beautifully set and carried, and his well angulated rear which matched his front. It seemed that he'd about "had it" with the show ring and was giving his able handler a real challenge.

Before talking about the BOB winner, I would like to diverge a little -- there were no Awards of Merit to award, but towards the end, there were several champions I would like to mention.

My attention was also drawn to:

- Ch. Adelgrau Rob N' Them Blind; a well-shown and obviously well-maintained and muscled, young dog. It is a pleasure to see and judge weimaraners in that kind of condition... well exercised, well trained, and well shown. I did like this dog a lot.
- Ch. Echobars Wild Fire; reach and drive was exceptional—she is a balanced weimaraner with a lot to offer to the breed.
- Ch Wynwoods Krystal Klear;) in a stack would be hard to beat. With beautiful breed type, a strong topline, nice tailset, plus a

Critique of the 2002 Weimaraner Association of Canada Nationals

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well turned stifle and strong rear – she is an excellent exhibit—though I would like to see a cleaner movement.

- Ch. Nani's Silvercoast Paige One; is very young, but I'd keep an eye on her – in my opinion, she may mature be a great one!
- Ch. Arokat's Flirt In A Skirt and daughter, Ch. Davora's Fire Storm were very nice exhibits as well. Later I discovered they were Dam and the litter mate to the BOS.

My Best of Breed choice was: Ch. Roschel's Sassa Fras

Her graying muzzle and toes only added to her perfection. Even at 11, her topline was solid and she exuded breed type. She went straight down and back with no extra motion front or rear – stopping four-square each time with no twisting or turning by her handler to get her into a stack at any time. Her reach and drive was evident as she took her lap around the large ring. I could not ignore her perfect adherence to the Weimaraner Standard – but more than that, I could not ignore her perfect adherence to MY ideal weimaraner. If I could have taken one weimaraner home with me that day it would have been National Specialty winner CH Roschel's Sassafrass—Best of Breed from the Veteran Class – “Sassy” said it all to me that day!