



MEMBER PROFILE ~

All I wanted was an agility dog!

Susan Bednar - Granuaile Irish Terriers

2026 will mark my 20th year in Irish Terriers. Along with my late husband, David, we decided to make the switch from Cocker Spaniels to Irish Terriers when we met Pat and Ian MacDonald at Milwaukee's Irish Fest. The following year at the suggestion of Debbie Rybacki, we attended ITCC's Specialty weekend. It was quite an experience! At Hospitality, an impressive group of breeders sat at combined tables sharing stories and rattling off pedigrees without hesitation. I still have a vivid memory of Rev. Bill Shields escorting me over to the table which included Bruce and Nancy Petersen, John Childers, Mary Best, Tom and Diane Miller, Ed and Rochelle Nagel, and Suzanne Griffiths. At the bar (smoking area), David joined Bob and Sharon Lingdren, Steve and Debbie Rybacki, and Barb and Bill Weber. I also remember feeling very discouraged that there was such a long waiting list for some of their puppies. As the evening progressed, we ended up doing a meet and greet (the dogs) in hotel room of Bob and Gloria Geddes and immediately connected with them and their philosophy on dogs. Others in attendance that weekend included Barb Miline, John Newhauser, Mark and Laurie Ulrich, Mike Kowalczyk, Geneva Heller, Mike and Debbie Constant, Paula Dwyer, Jeff and Irma Knoles, Barb Heine, Paul and MaryLee Srodes, Fran Anderson, Terri VandeZande, Rod and Lee Ulmas, and Lori McGuire. The following day we watch our first dog show which included champions competing for Best of Breed; CH Kalaney's Friendly Persuasion, CH Donadaire's Army of One, CH Geordan Star Cruiser, CH Blackacre Brown Balladeer, CH Redloch's Twisted Mister, CH Abagael's Lord Briscoe and CH Geordian Tiger Lily.



Oh, what a "line-up!" I vividly recall meeting veteran Julie (CH Greenbriar's Generald CDX). What a feisty old girl she was!

Early Fall of 2026, David and I brought Tara home (CH Diamond's Tara Tru) and our journey began! It was agreed that David and I would "try" conformation and, boy, what a journey it was. We immediately got this spitfire, Tara, into Basic and Beginner's Obedience at the Milwaukee Dog Training Club. She was nothing like a Cocker Spaniel! In the meantime, Bob and Gloria connected us with Mary Best for groom mentoring.... and handling classes in Jackson, Wisconsin. However, before we even entered Tara in her first show, I was diagnosed with cancer. I needed to prove to myself I could get that spitfire around a ring. I literally put my wig on for the first time at the show and off we went... (while I wanted to...) she puked at the end of the first go around!



While my treatment continued, it was often incredibly challenging to learn and work with Tara. Often, I was driven to the Geddes for grooming and other times ITCC members were grooming on Tara at the show for me. What an awesome group of people! And for those wondering, yes, David did eventually exhibit our male, Tibbott, for a while.



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While I wish I could boast that I finished all our dogs, I cannot. Throughout the past 20 years I have continued to have health challenges and have hired handlers when needed.

Throughout the years, I have held various positions within ITCC, such as Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Trophy Chair. I have also served the Irish Terrier Club of America in various capacities, including President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary from 2009 to 2024; and Conformation Awards Compiler from 2017 to 2025. Recently, I have been added to the Judges Education Committee (2025) and as a Breeder Mentor (2026). Other dog club memberships include the Kettle Moraine Kennel Club where I currently serve as Specialties Coordinator, and the Milwaukee Dog Training Club, as Assistant Instructor to its Puppy Class.

Show highlights have included Tara winning BOS as a Veteran at ITCC's winter show and performing at Milwaukee's Sport Show in agility (after 9 weeks of training), Tibbott winning Groups 2 & 3 from the classes at 9 months old and making the Top 100 in 2011 (his littermate Leo placed #5 in 2012); Gracie and Gael Group 1 wins from the classes; Eoin's first ring experience was a Match and he won Best in Match, and he later won Best of Breed at the ITCA National Traveling Specialty in 2022; Mosey (with co-owner Tracy Laws handling) winning Best in Sweepstakes at the ITCNY Specialty in 2022; at Montgomery in 2023, Hopper won Best Bred-By Exhibitor (Cocksure Trophy), while Cricket won Best of Opposite in Sweepstakes, and finally at the Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club, Cricket won Group 1 Best Bred-By Exhibitor and NOHS Group 1 on the same day. To date, Granuaile Irish girls have produced ten litters, and the males have sired three.

Besides conformation and agility, my dogs have also taken part in Rally, FastCAT, Barn Hunt, Trick Dog and various AKC Meet the Breed events. And now at 20 years, the dogs and I will be at Milwaukee's Irish Fest for my 19th year, and I think I finally have a new agility dog, Hopper!

