



## NEPGP WINTER NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors and I want to wish all of you happy holidays and success in the coming new year. We had a wonderful year of education and networking including two days with Jodi Murphy at Spring Fling and a successful New England Grooming Show. Thank you to our wonderful members for participating and supporting us throughout the year. I am excited about the upcoming new year and I am pleased to announce Spring Fling 2018 line up is in place. You will find information in this newsletter.

Please join me in saying farewell to a founder and original member of NEPGP. Sue Pratt has been part of NEPGP for over forty years serving as president twice. Throughout her career Sue has had many achievements from being a show judge, serving for 15 years as a contest coordinator to winning many classes and scissoring awards. Sue has been a mentor and friend to all of us and we wish her well in her retirement.

We would also like to say goodbye to two other members who have left the board but continue to be our friends and supporters of NEPGP. Thank you Linda Kay and Andrea Bancroft, you will both be missed. Finally please welcome our three new Board Members, Joyce Kahakalau, Nicoll Vincent and Rachel Corbett. We are excited to have these dedicated groomers aboard. I am very pleased of our team and look forward to a productive 2018.

Mary Seymour

Another New England Grooming Show has passed, and this was one to be remembered. We hope everyone who attended took some of the great classes that were available and visited the vendors. Congratulations to all the competitors who showed off their best. We had a fantastic time hanging at our booth and meeting so many of you including everyone who signed up as new members. The raffle baskets were a hit and helped not only NEPGP, but also Central New England Britney Club and Groomers Emergency Assistance Fund. Congratulations to all the winners! We had our first "Member's Meet Up" on Saturday with a cash bar, hors d'oeuvre and we gave away some fabulous door prizes. For those who did not attend our "member's meet up" we would like to introduce you to the new official NEPGP cocktail, renamed the Groomer Relaxer, that became a trend thanks to our president Mary Seymour (see recipe in the newsletter on page 8). Our annual members meeting & breakfast was a nice way to start the last day of the show. Mary Seymour presented a wonderful farewell speech to Sue Pratt which brought tears to all of us. We are looking forward to next year's show and can't wait to see everyone there again.

*"Everyone can learn something new by keeping your mind, eyes, and ears open and talking and listening to other groomers"*

- Sue Pratt

## IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE -SUE PRATT

I remember a night back in the 70's when a group of groomers from all over the Boston and Metro West area gathered at a groomer's house in Holliston. We were all there discussing our concerns about a school that was offering free or very low cost grooming to the community. The school's price and practices were cutting into a lot of groomer's income and livelihood. That night we developed and formed MAPDG: the Massachusetts Association of Professional Dog Groomers, with the idea that groomers need to support and communicate with each other. Soon MAPDG started to network with other groomers from the entire New England area and we became the New England Pet Groomer Professionals.

I have been here through the highs and lows of this organization for well over forty years. I was President from 1991-1993 and again in 2013-2015. It has been a privilege to have worked with so many great people and groomers through the years including Tony ,Toni, Linda, Sue Z, Patty, Dick Marsh, Joy Wade, Maria Tully, Lynn B and Christine D just to name a few. For anyone I missed you know it's been nothing short of a pleasure to work with you. I have always tried to stay active on the Board to help improve NEPGP and to make sure it survived the many industry and personnel changes. We are the only volunteer operated, not for profit, in the country. Our volunteers have done a great job over these years in helping, educating and sharing their knowledge with fellow groomers. The camaraderie between groomers has been unrivaled as we have created a bond of friendships and professional support. I have always looked forward to our get togethers at seminars, workshops, meetings and other events because of the fun we always have together.

The great people that are in office now are hard working individuals coming together to better our industry through education. I feel very confident in finally taking my leave from the Board. I will still be around and always at the other end of my phone as per my new "advisor" post suggests. I am forever grateful to have had NEPGP be part of my life for so long. Keep going NEPGP officers and board members and strive to make this organization the best it can be.

Love you all- Sue



### INFO

- ✦ **Members** have full access to NEPGP members only Facebook page included with your membership. In this private group, NEPGP will share events, updates and news. For you, it's a place to network, meet members, share information and ask us questions. Let us all keep in touch!
- ✦ **NEPGP** has launched its new website. On the website you can renew your membership, sign up for Spring Fling or any upcoming workshops and find general information. Visit us at [www.nepgp.com](http://www.nepgp.com)
- ✦ **Membership** must be renewed by January 1st of each year. Renewals are \$40.00 before March 1st. After March 1st it is \$45.00. New membership & memberships that have lapsed for a year are \$50.00

\*Memberships must be renewed at least one month before receiving any seminar discounts\*

For general information and questions contact us at [nepgp@yahoo.com](mailto:nepgp@yahoo.com) or call 508-317-3332

## MEET A MEMBER

We would like to introduce Tana Peckham, a NEPGP member from Smithfield Rhode Island. Tana grooms at *From Head To Tail* located in Warwick Road Island. Let's get to know a little about Tana.

*I understand you have been working with animals for most of your life. How did you enter the grooming industry?*

I was introduced to the grooming industry when I was about to graduate high school and needed a good job to help pay my way through college. My aunt was the one to introduce me to Debbie Flanagan who owned her own salon and hired me as a bather. Debbie ended up being an amazing mentor to me and still plays a huge role in my life almost fifteen years later.

*I understand you enjoy working with special needs pets. What is a method you can share with other groomers who will eventually be confronted with one?*

Although it's easier said than done, being able to control your emotions plays a huge role, especially stress and anxiety. Animals pick up on and emulate those feelings. There is no shame in having to give yourself and the pet a break (or several) in order for you both to regain composure if the groom is being exceptionally taxing on either or both of you.



*How long have you been a member of NEPGP and what has been your experience with us?*

I've been a member on and off for several years. I feel the club has really up'ed its game the past few years and offers amazing opportunities for groomers in New England to continue their education and keep up with the latest trends in pet grooming.

*One question we always like to ask is what are/is your go to product or tool?*

Survivor by Eqyss combined with Les Pooch's Matt Zapper. Dematting has never been easier. I'm also exceptionally fond of the Coat King.

*What do you do to continue your education and keep up with current trends in the industry?*

The seminars NEPGP has provided over the years are one of my main tools for keeping up with today's newest trends.

*Now that we know you professionally, when you put down those shears, who is Tana and what do you do on your off time?*

I am a wife and mother of two. In the very little down time that we have, we try to stay active in the local barrel racing community. We participate in the National Barrel Horse Association, International Barrel Racing Association, Massachusetts Rouch Rider's, and any local rodeo's we can catch. We own two world qualifying barrel horses so keeping them in top performance shape takes a lot of time and effort as a family but we love every minute of it.



# NEW ENGLAND GROOMING SHOW



## NEW ENGLAND SHOW WINNERS

NEPGP congratulates all the winners, runner ups and contest entries at this years New England Show.

**BEST GROOMED**-Philip Schafmayer

**BEST ALL AROUND**- Philip Schafmayer

### PURE BREEDS

**OPEN**

Caio Ribeiro  
Eric Chassey  
Krystal Purcell

**INT.**

Elli Bultemeier

**ENTRY**

Jennifer East  
Kathryn Dixon  
Danielle Kiertianis

### SALON FREESTYLE

**OPEN**

Maci Pisa  
Eric Chassey

**INT**

Stephanie Pietri

**ENTRY**

Nikki Ellie  
Kayla Douglas  
Laura Sabbah

### CREATIVE STYLING

1st Milena Bermudez  
2nd Jameson Kon  
3rd Katie Heikkila

People's Choice- Milena Bermudez  
Best Three Times or Under - Katie Heikkila

### CLASS WINNERS- WIRE COAT BREEDS

**OPEN**

Heather Roozee  
Philip Schafmayer  
Joann Camilli

**INT.**

Alysha Kelly

**ENTRY**

Martha Until  
Kathleen Conway  
Kayla Douglas

### SPORTING

**OPEN**

Karen Osper  
Krystal Purcell  
Susan Hatch

**INT.**

No Entries

**ENTRY**

Liz Atwood  
Erica Bryant  
Robin Boyd

### POODLES

**OPEN**

Philip Schafmayer  
Cristyn Zloza  
Maci Pisa

**INT**

Rachel Bartz  
Brittney Valle  
Elli Bultemeier

**ENTRY**

Kaitlyn Gove  
Christine Romanski  
Valerie Vattimo

### NEPGP SCISSOR AWARDS

1st Caio Ribeiro  
2nd Philip Schafmayer  
3rd Maci Pisa

## NEPGP SPECIAL MEMORIAL AWARDS

***Johnny Forever In My Heart*** - Best American Cocker: Donated by Jodi Murphy

Awarded to Karen Osper

***Taxi Mixed Breed Memorial***- Best Expression or Character, Mix Breed. Donated by Sue, Ray and Christopher Zecco

Awarded To Stephanie Pietri

***Best Groomed Poodle***- Memorial to Dreamcatchers Poodles: Donated by Sue & Ray Zecco

Awarded to Philip Schafmayer

***Best First Timer***: Donated By Linda Clafin Phelps

Awarded To Kayla Douglas

***Will Stone/Joulie Memorial Award***- Best Repoire: Donated by the Stone, Robitalle & Briggs Families

Awarded To Eric Chassey

## SPRING FLING 2018- SAVE THE DATE MAY 6TH & 7TH 2018 FOXWOODS CASINO & RESORT

NEPGP is excited to announce the 2018 Spring Fling guest speakers and seminars.

**On Sunday May 6th**, come join us with a grooming industry leader with 42 years of experience. Joey Villiani has been referred to as the “Dogfather” because of his decades of experience in the grooming industry. In his seminar, "Paving The Way To Success: A Guide To Business And Individual Changes”, Joey will share his insights, experience and knowledge in what it takes to be a successful groomer and what it takes to be a successful business owner.

**On Monday May 7th**, Mary Oquendo will instruct a CPR/First Aid certification class. This class is for recertification or new certifications through Pet Tech. Mary is one of our industry's leader in safety and health for pets as well as the groomers who service them. Mary is a nationally recognized speaker, journalist, and author in the professional pet industry. She has run a successful mobile grooming business since 2002, as well as the owner of [www.PawsitiveED.com](http://www.PawsitiveED.com), an online workshop and membership site.

Shear sharpening, vendors, networking and fun.

Registration, seminar description and class schedules will be active early winter 2018 at our website [www.nepgp.com](http://www.nepgp.com). There will be early registration discounts for classes and lodging.



Interested in submitting an article for your NEPGP newsletter? NEPGP mission and foundation is based on networking, educating and sharing our skills with each other. What a great way to help and share with your fellow members. Do you have an article you want to share on tips, techniques or experiences? We are also looking for anyone who would like to do a short “how to” grooming article complete with at least four photos. If interested and for more information contact us at [NEPGP@yahoo.com](mailto:NEPGP@yahoo.com)



Newsletter Editor  
Steve Ferraro

