

THE TINKERBELLS: A BOND STRONGER THAN GLUE



Pat Ourednik and Darlene Stone

Celebrating their 10th year together in the Monday Morning Seniors league at Thunderhead Bowl and Grill are the team of "The Tinkerbells". Pat Ourednik and Darlene Stone having been holding down the fort as a dynamic duo throughout the season, even though the league operates under a "triples" format.

Originally, the team was formed in 2013, with Judy John and Pat joining the league together to complete the formidable trinity with Darlene in the anchor spot, and the result was a great fit and an instant hit. "We've always been there for each other", Ourednik states. "Win or lose, we always have fun".

Always carrying with her a pleasant demeanor, it's evident that Pat's devotion to adhering to the Word of God is the dominant force in her life. Her favorite activities are Bible study and attending church.

Pat's appreciation for the Gift of Life has spawned a natural interest and dedication toward gardening. "I love to work in the garden, with flowers and vegetables, and putting my hands in the dirt. Most of all I enjoy seeing them grow. I think to myself, 'What a miracle to see!'. That seed, so tiny, comes to life and grows. I then get to see the fruits of my labor with the Help of God".

At harvest time, Ourednik and her daughters then follow up with 'canning'. Pat's job at that point is that of cleaner, chopper, and dishwasher.

Ourednik does have a competitive nature, however. Not only is she nifty with a duckpin ball, but she also loves to play Cornhole. Pat joined the Taneytown Senior Center about eight years ago, and plays the 'tossing' game twice a week – on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. There are approximately 12 to 14 members in the club, and a fun time is had by all. One of her goals for the game relates to a team effort of landing a 4th winner in the cutout hole in a series of tosses toward the game board.

Pat has been blessed to have operated as a stay-at-home mom, throughout her career. But, she did have part-time duty with a growing 'house cleaning' business for 18

years, with a modest but substantial clientele.

Her home life as it stands today includes two daughters, two granddaughters, and to round out the group, she has two 'grand-puppies'. When she finds time between family and bowling, Pat also likes to read and solve puzzle books.

Darlene too, has a pretty full retirement schedule each week, outside the bowling establishment. She is currently on the management team for the Adams County Special Olympics.

In her active years in the work force, Stone was a Registered Nurse, graduating from Mount St. Agnes College in Baltimore, Maryland. After graduation, she went to work at St. Agnes hospital in the field of Pediatrics for an impressive 43 year stint. She retired in 2015.

Darlene also loves horses, and has been an owner for many years. She first took up riding at the age of 48. She became a horse owner



Darlene's Daughter, Mary Beth on "Handsom"



*Handsom, Mary Beth (in costume),
and M&M*

when one of the therapeutic riding horses was retired, and Stone took possession of the mare at that time. M&M was her Thoroughbred's name, and Darlene cared for her devotedly until she passed at the age of 35.

Stone also owns a Gelding – a Percheron-Quarterhorse mix, which she has aptly named, "Handsom". Handsom is currently 32 years of age.

The Percheron half of

Handsom's mix is that of French origin. In regard to the Percheron line of horse, in an interview a few years before his passing, Andre the Giant expressed his great affection for this breed.

As we wrap up, it goes without saying that the Tinkerbells are always a joy to be around and are another great story in the makeup of the Monday Morning Senior league at Taneytown.

CANADA'S FIVE-PIN BOWLING

It may be surprising to learn that above the northern border of the United States is the game of bowling that was the most popular for Canadians up through the end of the 20th century, and perhaps even so in the current day. Five Pin bowling is a game that, as its name declares, is played with only 5 pins, and with the use of a standard duckpin bowling ball.

The pins all have rubber bands around the bellies, which is akin to the rubberband duckpin game (which we will be discussing in an



*Comparison: A duckpin, a fivepin,
and a tenpin*

upcoming edition of SpareTalk, the Newsletter.)

Despite the use of only five pins, a perfect game in this Canadian variation of bowling is 450, and not 300. Unlike typical bowling versions in which each pin is worth 1 point, the pins in the Canadian game have larger values. The headpin is worth 5 points, the two pins to the immediate sides of the headpin are worth 3 points each, and the two corner pins each are valued at 2 points, for a total of 15 for a frame.

A medium speed ball seems to be the most effective method of rolling. The lane is the same width as a duckpin or tenpin lane, and the balls are designated to be a maximum of 3 pounds, 10 ounces, whereas in duckpins, 3 pounds and 12 ounces is the limit.

As in the game of duckpins, players get 3 balls per turn, and strikes and spares are based on 15 per frame instead of 10 points. So, a triple-header is worth 45 points, instead of 30 as in duckpins or tenpins.

PUZZLE PAGE

Here are a few brain teasers. See if you can solve them. The one to the right is a sample. The word 'Man' is over the word 'Board', so the answer is the well-known term, "Man Overboard".

Man

 Board

See if you can solve the rest.

<p>①</p> <p>YOU J U S T ME</p>	<p>②</p> <p>BLOOD WATER</p>	<p>③</p> <p>SGEG</p>
<p>④</p> <p>STAND <u> </u> I</p>	<p>⑤</p> <p>TIMING TIM ING</p>	<p>⑥</p> <p> P G G</p>
<p>⑦</p> <p>KNEE <u> </u> LIGHTS</p>		<p>⑧</p> <p>T O U C H</p>

DAD: Bill, wash your face! I can see what you had for breakfast this morning.

BILL: What did I have?

DAD: Eggs.

BILL: Wrong. That was yesterday.

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BALLS AND BUMBLEBEES

Editor's Note: In keeping with last week's theory of the importance of balls, or spheres, in our daily existence, whether it be playing games, studying the stars, or exploring science, here is an article that might be of interest regarding the intelligence of the bumble bee.

Bumblebees can be trained to score goals using a mini-ball, revealing unprecedented learning abilities, according to scientists at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL).

Their study, published in the journal *Science*, suggests that species whose lifestyle demands advanced learning abilities could learn entirely new behaviors if there is ecological pressure.

Project supervisor and co-author Professor Lars Chittka from QMUL's School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, said: "Our study puts the final nail in the coffin of the idea that small brains constrain insects to have limited behavioral flexibility and only simple learning abilities."

Previous research has shown that bumblebees could solve a range of cognitive tasks, but these have so far resembled tasks similar to the bees' natural foraging routines, such as pulling strings to obtain food.

This study examines bees' behavioral flexibility to carry out tasks that are not naturally encountered by the insects.

"We wanted to explore the cognitive limits of bumblebees by testing whether they could use a non-natural object in a task likely never encountered before by any individual in the evolutionary history of bees," said Dr Clint Perry, joint lead author and also from QMUL's School of Biological and Chemical Sciences.

The experiment required the bees to move a ball to a specified location to obtain a reward of food. The insects were first trained to know the correct location of the ball on a platform. Subsequently, to obtain their reward, the bees had to move a displaced ball to the specified location.

To learn the technique, the bees were trained under one of three conditions: some observed a previously trained bee move the furthest ball to the center to gain reward, others received a "ghost" demonstration, where a magnet hidden underneath the platform was used to move the ball, and a third group received no demonstration, where they found the ball already at the center of the platform with reward.

The bees that observed the technique from a live or model demonstrator learned the task more efficiently than those observing a "ghost" demonstration or without demonstration.

Joint lead author Dr Olli J. Loukola, said: "The bees solved the task in a different way than what was demonstrated, suggesting that observer bees did not simply copy what they saw, but improved on it. This shows an impressive amount of cognitive flexibility, especially for an insect."

During the demonstrations, the researchers placed three yellow balls at varying distances from the center. The "demonstrator" bees always moved the furthest ball to the center, and always from the same spatial

location, since they had been trained under conditions where the closer balls were immobile. Untrained bees were given three opportunities to watch a skilled bee perform the task in this manner.

In later tests, when these untrained bees were tested without the presence of a skilled demonstrator, bees moved the closest ball instead of the furthest ball, which they had seen the demonstrator moving. In another experiment, the bees also used a differently colored ball than previously encountered.

Dr Loukola added: "It may be that bumblebees, along with many other animals, have the cognitive capabilities to solve such complex tasks, but will only do so if environmental pressures are applied to necessitate such behaviors."

EVENING TRIPLES LEAGUE ON SCHEDULE FOR THE FALL OF 2023

As may have been mentioned in an earlier edition of SpareTalk, the Newsletter, I'm working towards organizing a proposed evening triples league for the upcoming 2023-2024 season. There seems to be significant interest from a few external parties around Carroll County and Mt. Airy. More details to come soon.