

*Judging is an extension of my love and enjoyment of this wonderful breed. It has taken me over 25 years to get to this point, and I've loved every minute of it.*

*I acquired my first Beardie in 1981 and she is the reason I fell in love with this breed. When her breeder mentioned that she might be shown, I told him I would only consider it if this "showing" was something I could learn to do myself. That was quite a while ago now and I still owe Don for making that suggestion. It has led to this point.*

*I love showing in conformation. But even more than showing, I love breeding. The time, energy, work, concern, and frustration involved in this is all worth it when you see the results. It doesn't even have to be in the show ring. Producing that wonderful family pet is just as fulfilling. There's nothing more rewarding than having a person return to you for another Beardie because the one you gave them 12-15 years ago was the perfect dog.*

*During my "sojourn" into Beardies, I've produced about 20 litters from which I've finished about 25 AKC championships. I've managed to put a couple of obedience titles on my Krew and played with sheep a little too. I enjoy doing all the things we can do with this versatile breed of dogs. Agility and Rally are in my future when I can get back to classes.*

*Beardies give us so much love, joy, and laughter; you'd think that would be enough for anyone. Getting involved with them, however, has given me even more. They have given me life-long friendships and support from a wonderful group of people who feel the same way about the breed. I've met Beardie lovers from all over the world and made many friends along the way.*

*I have worked in various aspects of the dog world. I feel that's one way I can pay back to this breed. I've been a member of the BCCA since 1982 and am one of the founding fathers (and mothers) of the National Capital Bearded Collie Club, one of the longest standing regional clubs. I've served as President, Secretary, Board Member, match show chair, and almost every position a club has in NCBBC. I've also been a member of an all breed kennel club and have served as President, AKC Show Co-Chair, AKC Delegate, Secretary, and Board Member of that club as well.*

*When I was asked to judge my first Beardie sweepstakes a number of years ago, I was thrilled to be considered but not sure that I really wanted to get into judging. I went ahead and committed to it and found it a very rewarding experience. Since then, I've done several other assignments and continue to enjoy them. I find that judging is a natural extension of my concerns as a breeder. Judging is not an easy task, but it is rewarding. Finding that puppy that moves with the wonderful floating stride we look for in Beardies can make you stop and hold your breath. I hope I can influence where we take this breed.*

*Mary Ann Pflum*