

# Rappahannock Hunt Happenings

## *Welcoming New Puppies*

**By Melanie Mervis**

One of our favorite things at the Rappahannock Hunt kennels is welcoming new puppies. At the end of May, a robust litter of nine pups was born to our Wilma and Major. The litter was strong on the bitch side with seven bitch pups and two dog pups. It was also colorful, as five of the pups are black and tan and the other four are tri-colors. Once the pups were weaned, they spent several weeks at “puppy camp,” walking out at Ladybug Farm. The highlight of their stay at camp was our annual Puppy-Naming Auction. About 50 guests gathered on a very warm Saturday evening in August to share a potluck supper and to bid on the rights to name a puppy. Oliver Brown, MFH, served as our auctioneer with Huntsman and Master Michael Brown introducing the pups and talking about our hound program.

The bidding was competitive, but friendly, and at the end of the evening all nine pups, plus three more that were recently drafted into our pack from Shakerag Hounds in Georgia, all received their official names. The winning bidders can now look forward to seeing “their” pups in the hunt field and following their careers.

During their few remaining



**Rappahannock Hunt’s newest batch of hound puppies had summer fun at “puppy camp” and became the featured guests at the Hunt’s Puppy-Naming Auction, where they were all given names starting with “W.”**

days at camp, the pups learned their new names to get ready to move on to the next phase of their education. The nine pups received names with the initial “W,” the same as their dam. Tally ho, Windsor, Whisper, Warrior, Wham-O, Wonder, Whip, Wiley, Whistle, Whinny, and Georgia pups Mufasa, Maple, and Marshall!