



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Mia is a six-year-old, Rottweiler/Border Collie. When her human mother, Genevieve, broke up with her boyfriend they shared weekly custody of Mia. After a year, the humans decided that it was in the dog's best interest for her to reside full time with Genevieve.

Genevieve is an adventuresome traveler, so Mia does everything with her; canoeing, camping, kayaking, snowshoes trekking, hiking, swimming, running, cross-country skiing, Frisbee and road trips.

Like all dogs, Mia loves car rides, so during their six month, 3,200 mile adventure across country, Mia had a snooze fest. On the trips, Genevieve, who is a college physical education teacher is teaching Mia American Sign Language, so the dog can understand any one from any language!

Mia is a champion! She protected them from a 500 pound black bear, by charging at the bear when they were mountain hiking.

"I was scared for her," said Genevieve, "because she wasn't on leash. But, as soon as I called her, she came straight to me, where she remained barking until the bear left. One time, we became lost on the King's Peak Trek for 20 hours. We spent the night at 5,577 foot altitude, in freezing temperatures, without food and the appropriate

equipment. Mia helped me stay positive and the next morning helped us find our way back until we encountered a woman hiker who showed us the way to our car.

When we are out canoeing, and I tap the side of the canoe, Mia gracefully jumps in which is amazing, because it is a tiny unsteady craft. Never has she tipped us over. I love seeing Mia's facial expressions, they reflect her happy soul, when she is playing, swimming or walking in a forest."

The dog's one crazy habit has everyone laughing. She loves retrieving rocks from water. She dunks her head down (and all her body) into a river or lake for 15 seconds before she reemerges for air! Proof of her feat is on video!

Mia's friends laugh while watching her dog duck underwater and "catch" massive rocks and carry them around on shore like dog toys. Mia cries with excitement as she lifts the rocks out of the water and then she digs holes, and drops the rocks into them. The entire time she is loudly vocalizing like someone is mistreating her! She carries on like this until Genevieve tosses the rock back into the river. Sometimes, Mia insists on carrying rocks, as heavy as five pounds, back to their car. Once she carried such a rock a mile to the car, kept it in her mouth on the drive home, and then proudly deposited her treasure on the living room couch! Her other habit is carrying branches or logs bigger than she is!

Mia is not all about bark and bear, she has an amazing gentle heart and intelligence. When Genevieve found a newborn kitten, the K9 immediately adopted it, paw-forming as its "mama" saving the feline's

life. Mia attended the kitten's "health needs" helping it to eliminate and kept it warm. Mia took her role seriously, whether the kitten wanted her needs met or not! Today, the odd couple are inseparable and their story will be featured in a future Pet Tips 'n' Tales.

Having a dog like Mia opens your heart to love, to explore the wilderness, and she makes you laugh at her crazy antics. "After work, when I come home," said Genevieve, "Mia is enthusiastically waiting for me to smother her with kisses - which I gladly bestow on her."

TIPS

"Mia never gets dog cookies or store bought treats," said Genevieve. "I give her way more "treats" by giving her a life of amazing experiences and exercise. This is healthier for her than buying unhealthy salty or sugary treats, especially with questionable ingredients."

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Genevieve and her dog, Mia, spent two months camping and eluding bears.

Swinging Bridge donations flowing in to fix landmark

By Caitlyn May
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As the warmer temperatures hit Cottage Grove, locals are beginning to miss an old friend.

The Swinging Bridge is a childhood memory for many and a new destination in the city for others but currently, it's a headache for city administration.

The bridge was deemed unsafe late last year after the city engineer revealed elements of the bridge had begun to fail. As a result, the city closed the bridge to the public and began the process of researching what it would take to fix it.

During a city council meeting in March, city engineer Ron Bradsby revealed that the board had three options to repair the bridge and all of them reached into the hundred of thousands of dollars.

Hearing the figures sent residents into action.

The Friends of the Swinging Bridge, a social media group, quickly formed to begin exploring fundraising options. It has since appeared at community events such as Earth Day in Coiner Park to spark the public to donate to the cause.

The group's efforts paid off recently when the city announced it would allow residents to round up their water bills to donate to the bridge's repair.

So far, the fundraising effort has raised \$1,339.84.

The bridge is also eligible for a \$150,000 grant through the Oregon Parks and Recreational Trails grant program. The cost of the bridge's repair, however, soar above that.

At the March 27 meeting of the city council, Bradsby and Meyers laid out the options to the board.

"The first option is an ugly, off the truck bridge,"

Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers told council. The cost of the pre-fabricated replacement bridge clocked in at around \$370,000.

Option two would cost roughly \$261,000 but would maintain some movement in the bridge. However, according to Bradsby, the recommendation for the second option would create a bridge that did not meet current codes.

"Basically, the option is using the existing bridge and replacing the aspects that have failed like the upper cables and the decking," Bradsby told The Sentinel. While the replacements would enable the to bridge to swing, OBEC reported that it would exceed the 50 pounds per lineal foot safety standard. Option three was a combination of one and two.

Eventually, the board opted to pursue option number two, noting the community's desire to maintain the bridge's ability to swing and its current style.



City workers close the Swinging Bridge earlier this year.

Parade Grand Marshal selected



This year's Grand Miners' Parade Grand Marshal will be longtime resident Don Williams.

Williams was born and raised in Everett, Washington but has been a staple in the Cottage Grove community for decades.

He worked for 37 years for Weyerhaeuser in middle management as a project manager and in 1975, the company relocated Williams and his family to Cottage Grove.

As a longtime Grover, he's been actively involved in the leadership of community organizations such as the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Bohemia Mining Days, T.E.A.M.-Cottage Grove, the Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel -- and more.

He is a past recipient of the Chamber's First Citizen and Distinguished Service Awards and currently serves as Vice President of the BMD Heritage Association.

As a past organizer of the Grand Miners Parade for many years, it is only fitting to have him serve as its Grand Marshal this year.



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