

Unforgettable Breeders

who helped build the foundation of the Australian Shepherd breed



PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH

J. Frank Baylis

Bayshore

Paula McDermid

J. Frank Baylis

Bayshore

Established 1973

Tell me about your first Aussie.

I got my first Aussie from a breeder in West Virginia who had Hartnagle (Las Rocosa) dogs. Her name was Mora and she was a cryptic blue merle, nearly solid color on one side and with just a little merling on the other side. I couldn't ask for a sweeter or more wonderful dog. She was the stockdog style, heavier bodied, about 20" tall. She worked on the farm. We milked goats back then, and she would drive them out to pasture and gather them in for milking. She worked at an easy trot—never broke a sweat.



Frank handling AKC & IT CH
Bayshore's Ralph Lauren "Johnny."
Born 1994. By Multi CH Bayshore's
Three To Get Ready CD TT STDd
ROM-I ASCA HOF x AKC CH
Bayshore's Tereyn Crepe Suzette.
Photo courtesy of Bayshore. Photo
credit: BW Kernan.

What attracted you to the breed?

This is a funny story. I was preparing for a cross-country horseback ride, and the night before we were supposed to leave, my horse threw a shoe. It was 9 p.m. when I finally tracked down a farrier who would work on my mare. He had a little blue dog without a tail and there was a mongrel who was playing with the blue dog.

The mongrel was really annoying, climbing all over the blue dog. I looked at the farrier and said, "That blue dog is awful patient." The farrier replied, "Sort of." I asked, "What kind of a dog is that?" He said, "The best kind of

dog in the world. Hey, watch this!” He said “Sit up!” and the little blue dog sat up. He said “Lie down!” and the dog lay down. He said “Roll over!” and the dog rolled over. He said “Get that mutt!” and the blue dog grabbed the mongrel in the hind-end and chased him down the road.

I asked the farrier to get me a dog just like his, so the next time he went back to West Virginia he brought back my cryptic merle, Mora.

Have you had other breeds?

Yes. I’ve had Border collies, Parson Russell terriers, Xoloitzcuintle, Chinese crested, Affenpinschers, Icelandic sheepdogs, Whippets, Border terriers, and American Eskimo dogs. Really, the Aussies influenced me in all the other breeds. They taught me how important the differences in type are, the importance of movement. All my breeds have balanced, ground-covering, fluid movement.



ASCA CH Sitting Pretty of Sunnybrook ASCA Hall of Fame. Born 1977. By ASCA CH Fieldmaster of Flintridge ASCA HOF x ASCA CH Summer Breeze of Sunnybrook ASCA HOF. Breeder: Dorothy Fromer, Sunnybrook. Foundation bitch for Frank Baylis, Bayshore.

Tell me about the person who had the most impact on your evolution as a breeder.

Dorothy Fromer of Sunnybrook. She had great dogs with great pedigrees. She always used good studs.

Did you have a game plan or specific focus for your breeding program?

From the very beginning, I wanted to be a “name” and to be known around the world. I wanted to be Number 1 and I put a lot of work into getting there.

What were some of the most important reasons you were successful?

- I know animals. I know my breeds’ temperaments and important details like their “fear periods.”
- I knew I needed to have numbers of dogs to develop a successful breeding program.
- I didn’t keep a stud dog for quite a few years. I would use outside stud dogs and breed for better.



AKC ASCA CH Bayshore’s Lloyds of London “Bobby.” Born 1986. By Multi CH Bayshore’s Three To Get Ready CD TT STDd ROM-I ASCA HOF x AKC & ASCA CH Bayshore’s Bon Voyage CD. Photo courtesy of Marge Stovall. Photo credit: Carby.

AKC CKC SKC UKC IABKC CACIB INT ASCA CH Bayshore’s Three To Get Ready CD TT STDd Record of Merit-I HOF “London.” Born 1984. By ASCA CH Winchester’s Three Cheers CD x ASCA CH Sitting Pretty of Sunnybrook HOF. Photo courtesy of Marge Stovall.





What's your proudest moment when breeding and showing?

Winning both the Sweepstakes under Joey Hartnagle and the Futurity under Judy Norris with Prada at the 2000 National Specialty...

AKC CH Bayshore's On The Catwalk "Prada." Born 1998. Best in Sweepstakes under breeder judge Joey Hartnagle and Best in Futurity under breeder judge Judy Norris, 2000 USASA National Specialty. By AKC CH Bayshore Propwash Balderdash x AKC CH Bayshore's Jones New York. Photo credit: Photos by Kit.

... and Flapjack winning the prestigious Quaker Oats Award at age nine. He won 98 Herding Group Firsts in one year to earn that award. He was Quaker Oats' oldest winning dog.

What was your greatest disappointment?

Flapjack won the Veterans class at the California Nationals. Then someone pointed out that he wasn't seven years old yet, so he was disqualified and couldn't be shown in Best of Breed.



MBIS MBISS AKC ASCA CH Bayshore's Flapjack HOF "Flapjack." Born 1988. By ASCA CH Brigadoon's California Dude CD STDs HOF x AKC CH Bayshore's French Toast CD. Photo credit: Kurtis Photo by Betsy.

- 26 All Breed Best In Show wins
- Top AKC Australian Shepherd (All Systems) 1993, 1994, 1996
- Pedigree Award Winner 1993, 1994, 1996
- Westminster Kennel Club Best of Breed 1994 & 1996
- Top Ten Herding Dog 1993, 1994
- Number 2 Herding Dog 1996
- ASCA National Specialty Best of Breed 1991
- USASA National Specialty Best of Breed 1996
- Canine Chronicle Herding Group Hall of Fame

Great dogs don't just fall into your lap. You have to promote your dogs, put them with good handlers. Most of my handlers did not carry many dogs, so my dogs got a lot of personal attention when they were on the road. You have to make a name for yourself.

Over the years, what fads have you seen in the breed?

- Big ears with too much ear leather have come into the breed and haven't gone away. I hate big ugly ears and I see a lot of them. My dogs have smaller, higher-set ears that are triangular, as described in the breed standard.
- We're starting to get shorter legs and longer backs. Correct silhouette and proportions are really important.
- Huge bone is popular but it's not correct. You want an Aussie to look like an Aussie. It shouldn't look like a Bernese Mountain Dog. This is a moderate breed.
- Missing teeth. You can't lose your perspective about teeth. Each tooth is important for spacing, but I especially don't like to see missing molars. If you plan to sell Aussies overseas, they won't tolerate missing teeth.



ASCA CH Bayshore's Virginia Gentleman HOF "Jimmie." Born 1985. By ASCA CH Fieldmaster's Home Brew HOF x ASCA CH Bayshore's Mi LaMay HOF.

AKC CH Bayshore's Papparazzi "Flash." Born 1998. Best of Breed Crufts 2003. By AKC CH Bayshore Propwash Balderdash HOF x AKC CH Bayshore's Jones New York. Photo courtesy of Jeff Margeson. Photo credit: Perry Phillips.



AKC & ASCA CH Islewood
Trilogy of Bayshore
"Chisel." Born 2000. Award
of Merit 2002 Westminster
Kennel Club show. By AKC
& ASCA CH Bayshore
Tradition of Milwin x AKC
CH Bayshore Propwash
Spice Cake. Photo credit:
Chuck Tatham.



What are the most important lessons you learned that you'd like to pass on to newer fanciers and advice you'd like to give?

You have to read and learn as much as you can. You need to have the desire and be willing to do the work.

When you start to lose perspective, remember you are breeding for something that's hard to achieve. You have to be ruthless and cull out the ones that aren't the very best. Don't get kennel blind.

Make sure your dog is a great pet, because then it can become a great showdog. You need to have your Aussies in the house. Do things with your dog, play with him. Don't overwhelm the dog.

Go to handling classes.

Is there anything else you wish I would have asked about?

Yes! My pet peeve is bad feet. It's the most important thing—you must have good feet! A working dog has to go all day so his feet need to be tight and correct.



MBIS MBISS CH Bayshore's Russian Roulette "Judy." Born 1996.
Number 1 Aussie All Systems in 2003 and 2004, Number 5 Herding dog in
2003, Top Winning Aussie of All Time in Canada, Top Winning Aussie Bitch
Worldwide (27 All Breed Bests in Show), Best of Breed 2003 and 2004
USASA National Specialties, Best of Breed 2004 Westminster Kennel Club,
Best of Breed and Pastoral Group 1 Crufts 2004.
By AKC & ASCA CH Heatherhill's You Talk Too Much HOF x AKC CH
Bayshore Propwash Lollipop. Photo credit: Photos by Kit.

After you retire from breeding, how do you want to be remembered?

A guy who worked really hard at his craft.