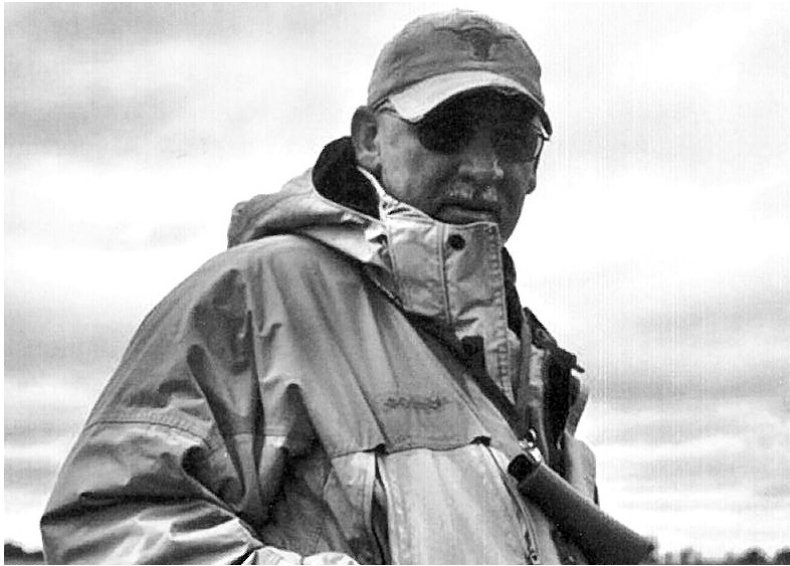


Bill Eckett



Bills first exposure to the field trial game was in 1976 as a 16-year-old bird thrower at the Central New York Retriever Club licensed field trial. In '77 He purchased his first lab. When she was four months old, and he entered her in the junior puppy. She won and the hook was set! By the Fall of '80 he began training professionally apprenticing under Jim Swan in Sanger, Texas. He learned a great deal about the basics and e-collar from Jim. In '83, he went to work for Ann and D.L. Walters in Kansas where he further developed dog training skills with an appreciation for animal behavior along with experience of life on the road as the handler for Walters Kennels.

Bill won his first open in '85. From 1985 to 2014, he has handled dogs to well over 200 Open wins. In '86, he qualified his first dog for a National Open. This little dog was the youngest at that National, just a 2-year-old and untitled, The Little Duke of Fargo. In '87, at 27 years of age, one of the youngest handlers to ever win a National, Bill won the National Open with the first yellow Labrador NFC-AFC-CFC-CAFC Yankee Independence. In '88, he won the Canadian National Open with FC-AFC-CNFC Hiwood Piper Pacers Pic. In '89, he was the trainer of the National Amateur winner NAFC-FC The Little Duke of Fargo, owned and handled by Dean Troyer. In '04, Bill won the National Open with the first yellow male to obtain the title, NFC-AFC Deweys Drake of Moon River. In '09 he was the trainer of the National Amateur winner, NAFC-FC Barton Creeks O'Mustad owned by Loren Morehouse and Mike Haring, handled by Loren. He has qualified and run every National Open since 1986 with numerous finalists and has coached amateurs at every National Amateur since then as well.

In '91, even with 3 National championships under his belt, Bill felt he could still make himself and his dogs better. With the help of Dave Rorem, he was fortunate enough to spend the winter with Rex Carr. In '94 He had the top Open dog, FC-AFC Mini Malarky. In '96 he had the top open dog and Purina Award winner, FC-AFC Riparian Mariah. In '09 Bill was the trainer of the top amateur dog and Purina award winner, NAFC-FC Barton Creeks O'Mustad. He has trained well over 100 FC's and numerous National Open and Amateur Finalists, has countless dogs on the Derby list as well as Qualified All-Age dogs.

In his commitment to give to the game and share his love for the dogs and the sport, Bill has presented a number of seminars and clinics for clubs. He has given seminars twice in Australia and once in Italy to a terrific group of people that we still stay in touch with. Any proceeds have always been turned back to the clubs to generate funds necessary to stay solvent whether it is the retriever Hall of Fame, or a club in the states, or an international retriever group. He has coached multiple clients along with other amateur handlers during pre-National training at Amateur Nationals. He stays during the week of the Amateur to throw birds and help in whatever way he can. Bill has had several people apprentice with him that have gone on to have successful careers as a field trial trainer. He is always willing to help someone learn to train their own dog or to develop into a professional trainer.

In this era where trial grounds can be difficult to come by, Bill has allowed clubs to use his properties in Texas and Missouri for field trials, hunt tests and club functions.

Bill has always put the dogs first. He has always tried to make them and their handlers better. Always competed with the greatest regard toward professionalism and displayed good sportsmanship. He has been a long time board member and supporter of the Professional Retriever Trainer Association. He has chaired several PRTA Field trials and continues to help put on the PRTA spring trial in Texas. He has dedicated his life to the advancement of field trials, field trial training and exemplifies a positive sportsmanship conduct at all time.