

2008

Carl L Ruffalo

To be elected to the Retriever Hall of Fame is truly an honor. My wife, Muriel, of 53 years and my 5 children have been a big part of this.

Initially, the training was primarily a result of the love of the outdoors and hunting, which my trial dogs and I continue to enjoy. I have had the good fortune to qualify 13 dogs for the National Open Championship and National Amateur Championship and have trained and handled 4 FC AFC's and 2 AFC's. FC E-Lynn's Super Strike Lucky has been my crowning achievement. Lucky was a 3-time National Finalist and a 2-time National Amateur Finalist, a double-header winner, and is in the Retriever Hall of Fame with 234 All-Age points.

I have had the good fortune to be a charter member of the Watopa Retriever Club, the Snowbird Retriever Club, and the Southwest Georgia Retriever Club. I have been an active member in 3 additional clubs. Nationally, I was the Field Trial Chairman for the National Amateur Retriever Championship in 1981 and I am a past president of the National Amateur Retriever Club and the National Open Retriever Club.

Judging has been a very important part of my retriever experience. I have judged over 110 All-Age stakes. I judged at the 1978 National Amateur, and was voted judge of the year by the Professional Retriever Trainers Association in 1975.

Since retirement as a Pharmacist and drug store owner, I am making what might be my most important contribution to the sport; I continue to train two dogs and have become a mentor to new retriever trainers and handlers in my training group. I have enjoyed their individual progress and success and know that new people are the lifeblood of our sport. Muriel and I live in Rochester, MN, where we enjoy our children and 7 grandchildren. I train 3 days a week and winter train in Georgia.

From the 2009 Inductions to the Field Trial Hall of Fame program