

2004

Jim Swan

Jim Swan purchased his first Labrador in 1965 from Dick Wilborforce in Amarillo, Texas. He went to watch his first Field Trial in Dallas, Texas in the spring of 1966 and after two days of observing he knew he had found his calling. A month later, Jim went to work as an assistant for Tom Sorenson, and then later worked for Floyd Hayes. Both taught him a great deal about training and managing a kennel. In January 1968, Jim and Marsha moved to Jonesboro, Tennessee to manage Ripshin Kennel and it was there Jim qualified his first dog for his first Open National.

Jim moved his family to Lake Dallas, Texas in the spring of 1970 and built Swan Kennel. Ten years later, the Swans relocated, at their present location, in Sanger, Texas.

Wanting to learn more, Jim visited Rex Carr numerous times in the seventies and added to what he had learned from Tom Sorenson, Floyd Hayes, D. L. Walters, Joe Schomer, Jay Sweezey and Delmar Smith.

In 1989, at a field trial, Jim met Geoff Cole from Sydney, Australia. Mr. Cole asked Jim to help restructure his training program and improve the bloodlines. In 1991, Jim did a training seminar in Sydney, Australia, which helped raise the standard of training and trials. Jim sent frozen semen from two well-bred male dogs that he was training. One of the dogs was a line-bred grandson of Volwood's Ruff and Reddy and the other a son of Ironwood Tarnation. After two select matings, the result was Mr. Cole won three Australian National Championships with the same dog, in 1998 - 1999 - and 2000.

The retriever sport has been very good to Jim. He has had his share of fine dogs and great owners. He qualified and competed in numerous Open Nationals and titled many Field Champions. Two dogs that Jim trained and campaigned were elected to the Hall of Fame: Trumarc's Raider, 1995 and Volwood's Ruff and Reddy, in 2000.

Through the years, many friends have been made all over the United States and Australia. Jim knows his success would not have been possible without the support of his wonderful family. Jim would like to thank his family, friends, and the Retriever Hall of Fame for this great honor.

From the 2010 Inductions to the Field Trial Hall of Fame program