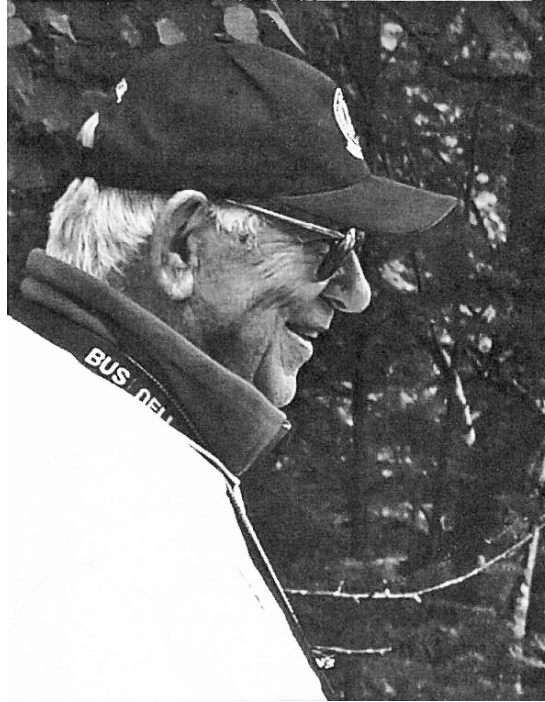


John W. Thomas, Jr.



John W. Thomas, Jr. resides in Rocky Point, NC. He has been involved in field trialing for 30+ years. His first field trial was as an observer in 1975. He watched John Dahl run Bernice Atkins' dog "Penny" as test dog. WOW! As an avid duck hunter, he had to have one like that. A few years later, he decided to "extend" his duck season by field trialing. HOOKED! He joined the Tar Heel Retriever Club.

With the Tar Heel Retriever Club, John served as Stake Marshal, Chief Marshal, Trial Chair and Board Member, and later as President.

John later founded the Cape Fear Retriever Club where he served as President, Board Member, Chief Marshal, Stake Marshal, and Trial Chairman. Currently he remains an active contributor as Secretary and Field Trial Secretary. John further expanded trial opportunities by convincing an out of state Hunt Test Club to allow him to serve as organizer and chair of a licensed trial. That club now holds two licensed trials yearly.

He has qualified and run his dogs in many National Championships, both Open and Amateur. He has judged trials from the east coast to Alaska, including the 1995 National Open Championship. He has served on the Marshal's and Chairman's special committees at Nationals. John successfully presented the case for the "Dow Jones Method" to determine the starting dog in All-Age stakes, adopted by a majority of clubs.

He has owned and handled 9 titled dogs. His latest, "Cane", was a National Amateur Finalist in 2012 and 2014, a Double Header winner in 2013 and High Point Open dog in 2013. He and his wife's dog "Ice" was a 2000 National Open finalist.

Though he has developed his 1,200-acre property as a superb training and field trial facility, (used by as many as four clubs for retriever events, an Amateur training group and visiting Pros) he feels strongly that in order for our sport to endure, we must give back more than we receive. As a result, he recently brought the 13 North Carolina retriever clubs together to request that the NC Wildlife Commission develop and maintain grounds for retriever events. Properties are now being evaluated by Commission Staff. When finalized, this will assure the future of the NC retriever community for years to come.

At 87, John is still very active in field trials.