

2004

Barbara Stevens Walters

Barbara Stevens Walters has been involved with Labrador Retrievers and Field Trials since 1949. Her interest began when her husband bought a trial dog through Bill Wunderlich. The family moved from Wayzata, Minnesota to Rapid City, South Dakota. A Field Trial Club existed there, but the members were having difficulties getting a licensed trial. After Barbara made a visit to Tom Merritt at the American Kennel Club, Rapid City had its first licensed trial.

The family moved to Sheridan, Wyoming in the sixties and she was president of the Sheridan Retriever Club for three years.

Barbara has done everything there is to do in the sport - as a competitor, as a judge, and in the performance of important services to the institution. As to competition, Barbara acquired her first dog in 1959. She made her a champion. She has campaigned many dogs since. She has judged the 1975 National Open Championship Stake as well as the 1976 National Amateur Championship Stake. On the institutional side, she was Field Trial Chairperson for the 1980 National Championship Stake in Roswell, New Mexico, and also was a director of National Retriever Club, Inc. and served as its President.

Few people in the sport have enjoyed Barbara's breadth of experience or performed with greater competence. Another measure of her affection for the sport was choosing a retriever trainer for her husband - D. L. Walters - Hall of Famer. Barbara's credentials merit her joining her husband in the Hall of Fame.

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