

2026 MAI Judges Bios

Dianne Clark-Kentucky

I would like to thank the MARC board and the membership for inviting me to judge this year's Master Amateur Invitational in Wisconsin. This is truly an honor for me.

It all started in 1994 when my husband Randy and I bought our first black lab puppy, Carson. Folks would ask me who is he out of and I would say the Seattle Times as that's where we found him. Come to find out his father was a Master Hunter trained by Tom Quarles. We had no idea who he was or what this type of training was. We went to a hunt test to watch, five of the nine pups in Carson's litter were training to run hunt tests. Randy and I jumped right in.

As the years passed one lab became two labs became three labs, etc. We became very involved with our local hunt test clubs, and I began judging AKC hunt tests in 1999. Handling my own dogs was what I wanted to do. Training and learning from professionals along the way.

I have been privileged to have two exceptional dogs at my side. Rita, my first Master National (4 plates) and Master Amateur Hall of Fame dog and now Tripp another Master National (1 plate} and Master Amateur (2 plates).

The feeling you get when you finish a test with a clean run is beyond words. They know it and you know it. The love and bond goes even deeper. Every day, every test a new challenge for you and your partner.

I am very excited to watch these amazing teams work together. I know you all have countless hours of training and preparation for this event. Take great pride in your team! I will be sitting back admiring all your hard work.

Remember the details that's the key to success!