

2026 MAI Judges Bios

Keith Winch-Colorado

I am a displaced Cajun from South Louisiana living and loving it in Paonia, Colorado. My wife, Kathy, is not a hunter nor handler but has supported me over the last 30+ years. I grew up a water-fowler with black labs who were trained to hunt as I guided for other hunters to make money for school.

After the best hunting lab I ever had (up to that point) died in my arms in 1996 at the age of 13, I swore to never have another dog because I did not want to go through that kind of pain again. Two years later, a dear friend gave me a Golden Retriever pup sired by his male. Neither of us wanted it, but once Kathy saw that little puff of fur there was no turning back. I joined a retriever club and went to one of our local club's hunt tests. I started running a few tests and became completely hooked.

Our 2nd Golden Retriever was inducted into the GRCA Hall of Fame. He's gone now, but we have two MH Golden Retrievers at home and starting with our 5th Golden Retriever pup born Christmas night 2025. I am truly honored and humbled to be selected to judge the 2026 Master Amateur Invitational.

I've been judging these amazing retrievers since 2002. I always pull for the retriever and look forward to some awesome teamwork. Enjoy the event and remember, this is your test, take your time and give your teammate every chance to succeed.

Best of work!