

## **2026 MAI Judges Bios**

### **Marc Couture**

I am humbled to be nominated to judge the 2026 Master Amateur Invitational event. It is an honor to be approved by the committee and one I do not take lightly. I thank everyone involved.

I am on the Board of the Yankee Waterfowlers Hunting Retriever Club

I grew up in Connecticut and was exposed to hunting when I was 12-years-old. I did not hunt with a dog until after I was married. When I finally acquired my first hunting dog, it was a 5-year-old yellow lab with no formal training and many bad habits! After being invited to a Hunt Test and watching a Master Stake, I decided to put formal training to work on Shannon. I approached a pro trainer and he helped me with some suggestions and an outline. I ended up putting a Junior and Senior title on her. My 9-year-old daughter also handled her as a junior handler.

Since then, I have bred, trained and titled multiple Master Hunters. I have had the joy of hunting pheasant and waterfowl for decades with them. I am grateful to all the hardworking people and training groups that have helped me along the way. I am also grateful to the clubs that volunteer thousands of hours so someone like me had an opportunity to learn, train, run and have some success with my dogs. Hopefully, we are paving the way for future generations.

I look forward to having some fun with all of you in Wisconsin. I understand all the blood, sweat and tears you put in.

It will be my privilege to stand at the line watching some of the best handler/dog teams in the country work.

I wish you all the very best of luck.

Marc Couture