

## Announcing the 2007

# National Open Championship Judges



**Conrad Plevnic**

Conrad was introduced to the Bird Dog Field Trial fraternity in 1964 while living in Georgia when he married his bride Meta, and gained his father-in-law, Col. Pingree Crawford. Col. Crawford, a retired U. S. Army Veterinarian had bird hunted and attended field trials throughout the world, and shared his love of the sport. Meta's first Christmas present to her young husband was a six-week-old field bred Irish setter, which set the stage for the next forty-three years of a field trial marriage.

Business relocation brought the couple to Texas in 1968 where they became charter members of the Texas Red Setter Field Trial Club. Trials in North Texas at that time were held on the Panhandle National Grasslands (later becoming LBJ National Grasslands) near Decatur, Texas. Conrad quickly became involved in working on improvements for the field trial grounds.

While competing with his red setters, Conrad joined the National Red Setter Field Trial Club in the early 1970s and gave his support to the red setter movement. He served as Director for several years, was President for two years, served as Secretary/Treasurer for nine years, and chaired two National Red Setter trials.

When the Red River Circuit (a part of Region Seven) was started in the 1970's Conrad was a charter member and served as Secretary and President during its duration. He has organized and conducted numerous clubs and trials throughout the years, and has served as Judge, Reporter, and Trial Chairman on countless occasions for local, regional, and national trials for all types of pointing dog breeds.

Region Seven elected Conrad to the Region's Secretary/Treasurer position in 1993 and he continues in this capacity today. He has chaired or was Trial Secretary in 48 regional championships during this tenure and was elected to the Texas Field Trial Hall of Fame in 1997.

A sampling of his judging assignments are; National Vizsla Open all-Age CH., International Endurance Open Shooting Dog CH., Texas Open Shooting Dog CH., California Open Shooting Dog CH., NBHA National Open Invitational CH., Lone Star Open Shooting Dog Classics, Cecil Proctor Open All-Age Classics, and several all breed and AKC Regional Championships.

Some of his memorable wins were with his red setters consisting of; Runner-up Champion of the National Red Setter National Championship, Winner National Red Setter Futurity two times, National Red Setter Derby Dog of the Year, National Red Setter Walking Shooting Dog of the Year, and Region Seven Puppy of the Year.



**Chris Rider**

My wife Kim and I have three daughters, Nikki, Jenni, and Angi and have been blessed with two granddaughters Hannah and Rylee.

Working for a utility company, I must use my vacation wisely and field trialing consumes the majority of it. Vacations should be memories made with family and friends, doing the things we enjoy most. For us, that is field trialing.

I've been in bird dogs about 26 years and have judged many Brittany Championships along with other breed trials such as, The Inez Smith and The Keystone Open Pointer-Setter Championships and a Vizsla Trial all the way in California. I have judged the Brittany National Amateur All Age in 2001 and 2002, the National Open Gun Dog in 1999 and 2000. My recent assignment was judging the 2007 Free for All Championship.

Each assignment brings new challenges and excitement.



**Ken Ruff**

I purchased my first AKC registered Irish Setter in 1972. Since that time I've finished thirteen of my own dogs as AKC Field Champions and thirteen as AKC Amateur Field Champions. I won the 1979 Irish Setter National Amateur Championship with a bitch owned by a friend and have gone on to win the Irish Setter National Championships eight times and the Irish Setter National Amateur Championships ten times with all but the first being dogs owned and bred by my wife and I. I'm the breeder of seven AKC Irish Setter Futurity winners and co-owner of two of them. I have enjoyed owning and raising AKC Irish Setters and it is my own personal goal to continue to raise recognizable Irish Setters that can compete in all breed field trial competition.

My judging qualifications would come from many experiences hunting, training, handling and judging all breeds of pointing dogs. To date, I've judged numerous weekend Field Trials throughout the country. My judging experience also includes upwards of 55 championships, including the following National Caliber Events: Brittany National All-Age Championship, Pheasant Classic, Central Futurity, Prairie State Open & Amateur All-Age Championship, Illinois Championship, National Gun Dog Championship, Free-For All Shooting Dog Championship, Pennsylvania Shooting Dog Classic; NGSPA Region V All-Age & Shooting Dog Championship, Region VIII All-Age & Shooting Dog Championship, Futurity, Open & Amateur Shooting Dog Championship, Arizona Shooting Dog & All-Age Championship, Region 4 All-Age & Shooting Dog Championship, National Championship, National Derby Classic; National German Pointing Dog National Championship, Futurity, Open & Amateur Shooting Dog Championship; Vizsla National Amateur Championship; Gordon Setter National Championship, Gun Dog Championship; English Pointer 1<sup>st</sup> AKC National Championship; German Wirehaired National Championship, Futurity; Weimaraner National Championship; GSP Hawkeye Shooting Dog Championship, Region 17 Open All-Age & Amateur Shooting Dog Championship; National Shooting Dog Chicken Championship; AKC National Gun Dog Championship.