

2022 WCA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Richard “Dick” Wilber

As a breeder and as an amateur handler, Dick has represented our breed for 50+ years in a positive, respectful, and meaningful manner. Some 35 plus years ago Dick was at the first NFT I ever attended. He welcomed me and rode along with me explaining what was happening just as he had done for many before and after that day.

Dick has bred multiple national and national amateur field champions. To this day, I still have folks of all breeds asking about him and reflecting back to how competitive he and his dogs were. Dick owned and bred the first Weimaraner to be inducted into the National Bird Dog Hall of Fame and she was inducted well before the WCA had a presence there. Dick was instrumental in pushing the WCA to become represented at the National Bird Dog Museum and Hall of Fame.

Dick has chaired hundreds of field trials and numerous regional and national championships. Frankly, for decades he has been a figure at our national championship in Ardmore doing everything from captain of guns to making sure our judges were well provided for. He has served on our BOD and has served on our National Field Committee since its inception. He has also served on numerous ad hoc committees.

As I write this, I have to acknowledge that while I have been in this breed for some time, I only know a small amount of how Dick has contributed to our breed. I am well aware that there are many ways that he has contributed that I am unaware of. The fact is, just his attitude and willingness to help others should be enough. I have never known Dick to be anything but welcoming and kind to newbies. That is enough for me.