

## **2017 WCA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

### **DIANE VATER**

Diane Vater got a Weimaraner in 1989, a dog she named Moose. Starting from her background in obedience training they branched out to learn about showing, tracking and field work and in the field Diane received a lot of her initial education and support from Gene Dagenhart. Diane is a natural dog trainer and excellent student and by the time Moose retired his registered name was DC Jo-Ron's Silber Elch UDT TD MH SDX RDX VX3 HOF NAVHDA UT3 and he was the most titled Weimaraner in the history of the breed at that time.

Diane's passion for field training and Weimaraners both resulted in her decision to become a professional field trainer specializing in Weimaraners in the late 1990's with the added support of her husband and best friend Chuck Cooper a few years afterward. The role of Chuck as Diane's companion, co-trainer, scout and partner in all the chores and for all the miles and challenges posed by a professional field trial lifestyle could likely not be overstated as a factor in Diane being able to enjoy such a sustained and productive career.

Having Diane as a Weimaraner specialist professional field trainer for the past two decades has been an incredible boon to the breed in so many ways. Her limitless energy, her training skill with the breed, her winter and summer training camps, her attendance and great success at of all WCA regional and national field trials nationwide along with many local field trials has provided Weimaraner owners with field aspiration the support needed to fully develop their dogs' potential and then to showcase their talent, thereby providing the vital feedback that has allowed field breeders to significantly improve the quality of pups produced during her tenure. And improve they have, with more and more Weimaraners possessing the qualities needed to successfully compete in all-breed trials in recent years.

While the contributions mentioned above are more than enough to warrant a Lifetime Achievement Award still there is so much more. Diane has contributed as a judge, as a stake manager, as a breeder and mentor to other breeders and as a volunteer worker at events and on WCA committees. In her spare time she rescues dogs, helps with dog transport, teaches owners how to train and handle their own dogs, loans her horses and lends a hand wherever it is needed. And all that with a positive attitude, good sportsmanship, a wonderful sense of humor and always the best interests of the breed at heart.