



I saw my first Springer Spaniel in action almost 30 years ago when Dave took me pheasant hunting with a friend and his dog. Watching that dog work the field was something to see. In 1989 we bought our first Springer and she was a handful! We had no idea how to train a bird dog and sought out the help of a professional. We headed to Ohio where Ben and Rita Martin introduced us to the world of well trained dogs and the sport of field trialing. I was hooked after watching my first field trial and I've been learning, training and trialing ever since.

Over the years I've handled some very good dogs, judged some great dogs, and met some wonderful people. Each season I look forward to watching both the young dogs as they run their first trials and the more experienced, trial-savvy dogs as they continue to compete. At the end of each trial I walk away amazed at the talent of these dogs and their handlers.

I'm deeply honored to have been chosen to judge the 2009 National Amateur and look forward to judging with Pete Rainey. I'd like to thank everyone for their vote of confidence and also thank those people that have taught and encouraged me along the way. Congratulations to all handlers who earned an entry to the Nationals. It takes dedication and a lot of hard work to reach this point. Your dogs have already proven they've got what it takes - now it's time to show off and have fun!

Good luck and have a great National,

Kathy Nestor