



Master National Retriever Club

John Blackbird –President

First, would like to thank my peers for allowing me to represent Region 2 as your Vice President.



I appreciate your vote and your confidence in my leadership abilities. I am a retired auto worker, dedicating 30 years to Ford Motor Co. My hobby, past-time, and waking hours consist of something to do with retrievers. My wife Karen and I belong to four retriever clubs, and have been active in them since 1988. Working for these clubs during their events is extremely important to us.

I have served as an officer and board member, and for the last three years dedicated my time as Hunt Test Chairman for Central Minnesota Retriever Club. We both judge hunt tests, and I have judged in the field trial game. I also run and work many informal trials. It was a great honor to judge

the 2006 Master National in California, fulfilling a longtime goal. I have received multiple Master Hunter titles, qualified for the Master Nationals five times, competed in four events, and qualified in 2004 with my current big dog, who is also QAA.

Nineteen years ago while I was holding my first lab pup in my arms, I had absolutely no idea that my life, as I had known it, would be changed forever. I retired my rifle, and my quest for big game, picked up a shotgun, loaded up the dog, and headed to the field and wetlands in pursuit of birds. Between our home in Mora MN (five labs), and our two sons, their wives, and three grandsons in the Twin Cities, we have eight labs that we can rotate in and out during the hunting season.

I have enjoyed endless discussions of training techniques, test strategies, and ideas on how to improve bird numbers through land and water conservation. I have great respect for the retriever breed that performs unconditionally as our companion, competitor, and hunter.
