

2020 SWEEPS JUDGES BIOS

DAWN GIBAS – SABIG HOUNDS

To say that I was honored to be nominated to be the 2020 Sweeps Judge would be a vast understatement. Our dogs on both ends of the spectrum, young and old, speak volumes to a breed that I have lived with, trained, shown, and most importantly loved since 2001. While RRs were not my first breed or the only breed in my house, they are the breed that has become permanently ingrained in my heart.

My first dog as an adult was a male Doberman that I got in 1986 while working on my PhD. He was my constant companion while doing research in the remote wilderness of Minnesota. He was also my introduction to competitive obedience and my first High in Trial dog. In 1992 I fell in love with Borzoi's while ring stewarding and added one to my household in 1993. This was also when my love of lure coursing began and a big realization of the tight connection between conformation and performance in the hound breeds. I have watched/evaluated dogs both on and off the field and have an in-depth understanding of the form and function of the coursing breeds.

I acquired my first Ridgeback in 2001, mainly due to the fact that I wanted a breed that offered it all; a breed between the working companionship of the Doberman and the elegance, power and grace of the Borzoi. The Ridgeback definitely fit that description. I handled my first Ridgeback to her Championship and a BOB win at the 2003 ASFA International Invitational. I co-bred her in 2006, and the girl I kept won BOS Veteran Sweeps at the 2018 National Specialty at 12+ years old. Form and function (you can't have one without the other) as well as conditioning has been key in taking my dogs from youngsters to an active old age.

Over the past 30+ years my dogs and I have achieved Championships, Dual Championships, lure coursing and racing titles, as well as titles in obedience, rally, herding instinct, flyball, FCAT, and CAT. I have been an all-breed lure coursing judge since 2000 and hold a judging license for AKC, ASFA and UKC. Over the years I have judged national specialties, large invitationals, and regionals in both the U.S. and Canada. In my non-dog life, I am a soil physicist/hydrologist and work for the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of American where I am responsible for all of the certification and licensure exams for Certified Crop Advisers and Soil Scientists in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Caribbean, and Australia.

MARIE GLODOWSKI - ZAREBA

I am honored and excited to be nominated as Sweepstakes Judge for our incredible breed. One of the most fun events at the National Specialty is the Sweepstakes competition. With each assignment comes new opportunities and responsibilities for finding the dog (or bitch) that best embodies the breed we all love. When you see the Ridgebacks that pull together everything you're looking for, they

can't be denied. The excitement of finding the special puppies with a bright future, or the delight in seeing the greatness in the veterans is truly an honor.

Ever since I met my first Ridgeback in 1993 then co-owned my first Ridgeback Juniors dog in 1995, this breed has been my passion. Over the past 25 years, my dogs and I have participated in conformation and various performance activities like lure-coursing, obedience and nose work. I titled my first dog, Ch. Zareba's Midnight Runner, CD, RN, JC, FCh, CGC, TT, VC (Captain), to a VC. Over the past 10 years as a breeder-owner-handler, I've finished many dogs and enjoy competition with them in conformation. Most notably, GChG. Zareba's Baddest Bess (Bess) was campaigned as one of the dogs in 2012-2013, breeder-owner-handled and every time I step in the ring with her, now a veteran, I am proud of her. Today, being in the ring with her offspring brings me the same joy I felt competing as a Junior.

Continuous education of our standard and its elaboration is something I enjoy and something I've taken seriously. I have attended judge's education seminars given by the Education Committee at various specialties and always find myself gaining new insight. Previous sweepstakes judging assignments over the years have taken me to the San Diego Rhodesian Ridgeback Specialty in Palm Springs, to Perry, GA, Lexington KY, Raisin River Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of Michigan, among others, and also judged for the Dalmatian Club of Greater Detroit.

Additionally, I've handled many breeds to their championship and won the Breed at Westminster in 2013 with a Belgian Malinois. One thing I've learned about handling other breeds is how they have rounded my knowledge of the Ridgeback breed and standard. Learning about and discussing the standards of other breeds has helped to enhance and further form my understanding of the Ridgeback standard.

Thank you for the nomination as a sweepstakes judge for the National Specialty. If I am fortunate enough to judge sweepstakes at our National Specialty, it will be a memory that I will always cherish. As a breeder-owner-handler, I look forward to the privilege of seeing the dogs in action. I thank you for putting your trust and support in me as a nominee and if voted in, it would be my absolute pleasure and joy to judge the Sweepstakes assignment.

TOM MARTIN - CROSSED PINES

It is an honor to be considered to be a judge for the 2020 RR National Specialty.

My wife Loretta had a Ridgeback when we met 20 years ago. That was my first introduction to the breed. Six years ago, after the passing of our Ridgeback girl, Loretta had the opportunity to acquire a show quality girl on the condition that we show her. That was our introduction to the show world. Lila did well in the conformation ring, but she really shined in lure coursing. So, we became "roadies" for coursing events as well as conformation shows.

The next year, my wife researched breeders of Ridgebacks, and made contact and a relationship with Jay Hyman and the Rollings kennel back East. Somehow Loretta talked her way to the front of the line

and got a pick of the liter boy for me, my first dog, Reddington. Since then, it has been all about MY DOG. I showed Reddington as Owner Handled. We made it to #6 in 2016 NOHS, going to Florida for the national show. We have since earned our Grand Champion Bronze, Reddington has sired 3 litters of puppies, and they have started to finish their championships. Two of Reddington's puppies won Best In Show Brace at the 2018 RRCUS National Specialty in Loveland, CO.

We currently have 6 Ridgebacks living at home with us and a couple more living at other people's homes that are in our name. We will be breeding this winter to fulfill the several requests for our puppies.

NICOLE RUPERT – OAKHURST

I was practically raised in the "Oakhurst" whelping box 47 years ago. My active involvement started in the show ring when I was old enough to hold a leash. My recollection of spending weekends at dog shows included being my parents' "bucket bitch."

I have been actively involved in the show ring as well as becoming an AKC breeder of merit. It was a thrill to have co-bred the # 1 Ridgeback for 2011. I attribute these accomplishments to my parents, Dick and Barbara Rupert, who continuously support me in my pursuit to maintain integrity and reputation as a responsible breeder.

I have raised two young men, Chase and Chad, who have both graduated from college and have begun their careers in teaching and business. Professionally, I work in administration as Director of Student Affairs at a Montessori school in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. I share my home and enjoy the company of 2 Ridgebacks, a Whippet and a Miniature Longhaired Dachshund.

I have judged several sweepstakes, which included Regional Specialties and supported entries. It is an honor to be selected to judge Sweepstakes at the OCRRC Regional Specialty in April.

One of my goals on my "bucket list" is to adjudicate a Ridgeback National Specialty.

TERESA WEST-HOLMES – LUVAKIS

I'm thrilled and honored by this nomination. Some of my most enjoyable and memorable times in the ring have been judging Sweepstakes entries at regional specialty shows. To have the first-hand ability to examine the next generation of our breed showcased in the 2020 RRCUS Sweepstakes competition would be thrilling beyond words. As I write this, I'm currently crammed into the corner of our whelping box with high hopes and eager expectations for our next generation.

As a child, I was introduced to the sport of dogs by way of our family's breeder who had been a well-known breeder and judge of Cocker Spaniels for many decades. I had the great fortune to learn the ins and outs, highs and lows of being a breeder and passionate proponent of a breed. Swanks gave me the tools to be a hard worker, good sportsman and a compassionate handler when competing as a 4-H Dog Program exhibitor. Not surprisingly, this expanded into AKC sports when I aged out of 4-H.

Although I still have a special place in my heart for those funny, fuzzy, little clowns, as a young adult, I had a strong desire for larger breed that was a bit more “wash and wear.” It was chance we stumbled upon our first Ridgeback, Seti, in 2002. This led us down the rabbit hole that is the world of the Rhodesian Ridgeback, meeting exhibitors, breeders and fellow fanciers along the way, and ultimately leading us to our foundation bitch and my heart dog, Ekundu.

Experiencing success as an owner-handler in the Breed ring fueled my desire to explore the full capacity of the breed, including obedience, lure coursing and therapy dog work. Not only have these experiences enhanced my desire to participate in an even wider array of events with my dogs, but it has also fueled my desire to help educate and train other dog owners. I’ve built puppy kindergarten and Rally programs at several clubs and training facilities, and currently am the AKC STAR Puppy instructor at my local kennel club. In addition to training adults, I’ve also taken on the role of project advisor for my county’s 4-H Dog Program, which allows me to introduce so many young people, including our eldest daughter, to the fun they can have training and exhibiting their dog.

From the show ring to the performance ring, from the coursing field to the nursing home bed, our dogs continue to amaze me. I marvel at our breed’s versatility and our breeder’s continued commitment to producing the sound, versatile puppies that carries us into the next generation. I am truly humbled by this nomination, and it would be my profound privilege to judge Sweepstakes at the 2020 RRCUS National Specialty.