



**2008 NFC
FC SHELMAR'S RUDH
LOWARN
"Lucy"**

**NCC 2009
Dyson Orchard,
Clinton Corners, NY**

**Judges
Ben Martin and Mike Noland
Alternate Jerry Light**

**Gun Captain
John Castellani**

Field Trial Committee

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Dear Cocker Enthusiast,

As you are well aware, the 2009 National Cocker Championship will be held this year at Dyson Orchard in Clinton Corners, New York. I would like to share with you the wonders of the area, but since it is 400 miles from our home in Maine, it looks like we will do our discovering together. Thank goodness for the membership in the host Cocker Club and to Terry Oliver, who have been taking care of onsite issues for over a year now.

As most of you well know, it takes a great deal of precious time to put on hunt tests, field trials, and National Championships. Why do we do it? As I look at the very long list of this year's "helpers", I see we live all over this country. Most of us have never been to each other's homes, but we do know what goes on there. Just one of many examples -- no matter how many times we enter our front doors, we are always greeted by a wiggle worm frantically searching for something to bring us. And -- every day we laugh at those cocker moments -- every day we feel the joy of our cocker's love. Yes, we train them; we compete with them; we praise their intelligence and forgive their foibles, but most of all we LIVE with them and that's what turns us into these crazy "helpers" sacrificing whatever for the sake of ALL our cockers. Many thanks to ALL the crazy helpers!!

Sue Rose once told me that "cocker people are the best people, because we are like our dogs." Think about that for awhile -- scary, funny, and profound. When we come together in November: handlers, owners, guns, marshals, stewards -- no matter what name tag we happen to carry for those few days, we have our cocker attitude and we have the dedication to the breed that ties us together.

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to all of you who have qualifying cockers; you are the best of the best and have earned the privilege to compete in the National. Welcome to all of you who support the cockers and will be attending the National this year in any and all capacities. I see the 2009 National as one of great fellowship where we enjoy seeing magnificent dog work on challenging grounds with strong birds as close to "wild" as they can get. The weather will be November "upland crisp" with a nice touch of moisture in a gentle breeze. As long as this is my vision, I'm going for the ultimate. The judges will see what they see and like what they like; we know every dog has its day and yours may be on the November horizon. We will savor a few moments -- share and enjoy many. The best performances will be recognized, and we will leave Clinton Corners smiling, with a satisfied comfortable feeling about NCC 2009.

Best regards to all of you from your proverbial and perennial Pollyanna -- my style today, tomorrow, and always.

Barbara Haupt
Chair