

My Potomac Experience

By

Winnie Limbourne

Let me start by thanking the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac for extending the invitation to judge this special show. It was one of the items on my bucket list. It's one more thing to cross off....The quality was just as I had expected, The Best of the Best. As a judge it's harder to judge a class of great dogs than a mix of great dogs and middle of the road dogs. I soon found out as they were being checked in and one great dog after another came into the ring. I wanted to dig a hole and climb in it, instead I took a deep breath, hoped my legs would hold me and stood up and went to work on the first group of twenty five. My goal was to cut a reasonable amount of dogs from each group and end up with a reasonable amount of dogs that I liked. Well, let me tell you it was not easy. There were dogs that walked away not making the cut that could have won under me given a different show on a given day, but my task was to get this 100 plus dogs down to the three winners. While judging I am looking for the dog or bitch that has the correct pieces to make the puzzle complete. Dogs are made up of pieces and parts and the better they fit the more correct they are. My BOB went to the black dog Ch. Blackwing Superfine. He was really on this day and never had a foot out of place each time I

looked at him. He certainly fills the eye. I loved his outline, head and attitude. I wish him luck in the future and hope he can produce himself. He has what a lot of bitches need. My BOW went to winner's bitch, Beechcroft Diva's Midnight Rose. She was a nice mature looking bitch. Had it over the winners dog because of this. BOS went to Ch. Huntclub Clayview Trixie. A wonderful expression and in excellent condition. Would love to have her at home in my house. Heard she did quite well a weekend later. My thanks again for this wonderful experience. As I told a fellow judge it is a shame more judges do not get their hands on this many great DOGS. Most all breed judges won't see this many correct, great dogs in their lifetime judging and I had the privilege of doing this in one day. I shall always remember this assignment with fond memories.

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