

# Conservator Class



WALLY SHORT

The Conservator Class is a relatively new category, beginning in 2006, designed to replace the old Retirement Class which is being phased out over an indeterminate period of time. Its purpose is to provide Mustangers who have already attained a high level of awards continued recognition for future National events that they would not otherwise be able to achieve. It will give those elite Mustang owners a new incentive to maintain their cars in the superb shape that put them in the Retirement and or Grille Medallion category in the first place.

A little background as to how this Class name was originated is as follows: Mustangers that retired their cars had no real purpose or incentive to maintain their cars in the top condition that allowed them to earn Retirement status. Wanda Whitsell, MCA Scoring Secretary sensed this problem and at that time relayed her concerns to MCA President Arley Whitsell. Arley, in turn, relayed these concerns to me as former 1st Generation Head Judge. I was given the opportunity to develop this new MCA Class. It was dubbed the Conservator Class title, which stuck, because at the Henry Ford Museum it was learned that the workers there, conserve priceless Museum items, e.g. Mustang # 1, 1964 1/2 White Convertible. The workers there are referred to as Conservators. Thus, that is where the idea for the Class title originated, giving it legitimacy as it relates directly back to the Ford Motor Co.

**Conservator rules are as follows:**

- All previously Retired cars that have earned 20 points and cars that have earned a Concours (blue) Grille Medallion automatically qualify to enter into the Conservator Class. However, once a car is taken out of the Retirement Class, it cannot be returned to that Class
- All Classes are eligible except for Daily Driven, Occasional Driven, and Modified (These cars have not reached a level of quality and/or authenticity that MCA is promoting to be "Conserved.")
- Mustang must be 10 years old or older
- Must earn 20 points to qualify for the Grille Medallion before optionally entering into the Conservator Class
- The Conservator Class will not earn points
- Cars must be pre-registered and parked in a high-visibility location
- Former Retirees may stay in the old Retired Class or enter the new Conservator Class permanently when they have earned 20 points
- Intent to enter the Conservator Class may be done by checking the yes block at the bottom of the Grille Medallion application form
- Entry fee is the same as all of the other Classes. If Retired cars remain in the Retired Class, then they may continue to have free entry; but, if they elect to switch over to the Conservator Class, they will be required to pay the normal entry fee as everyone else
- Permanent Window Card numbers will be assigned e.g. CON # 1, CON # 2, ETC. by the scoring secretary
- Owners are allowed tasteful displays
- After the 20 points are earned, owners will initially receive a Conservator Plaque at the next National Show
- At each subsequent show, an engraved Tag, if approved, will be awarded, to be affixed to the winners Conservator Plaque, plus a regular Gold Concours Award
- When 10 Tags are won, an engraved Silver Cup will be presented to the owner. This cup is considered one of the top accolades MCA can bestow upon one of its members
- Cars in this Class will be inspected by two Gold Card Judges and either approved or disapproved for: Quality of Workmanship, Cleanliness, and Condition.
- All *three* characteristics above must be approved to remain in Conservator Class. If disapproved, the reason must be documented

Note: Credit is already allowed for cars previously attaining a high degree of Authenticity.

This new Program was presented at the Nov. 5, 2005, Judges Meeting in St. Louis, MO, and was unanimously accepted by the Judges attending. It was subsequently approved by both the MCA Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The entire staff of MCA sincerely hopes that many members participate in this new direction to assure that it is successful and most of all, it is a fun program.

We thank NATIONAL PARTS DEPOT for Sponsoring the Conservator Class Awards!

Wally Short  
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