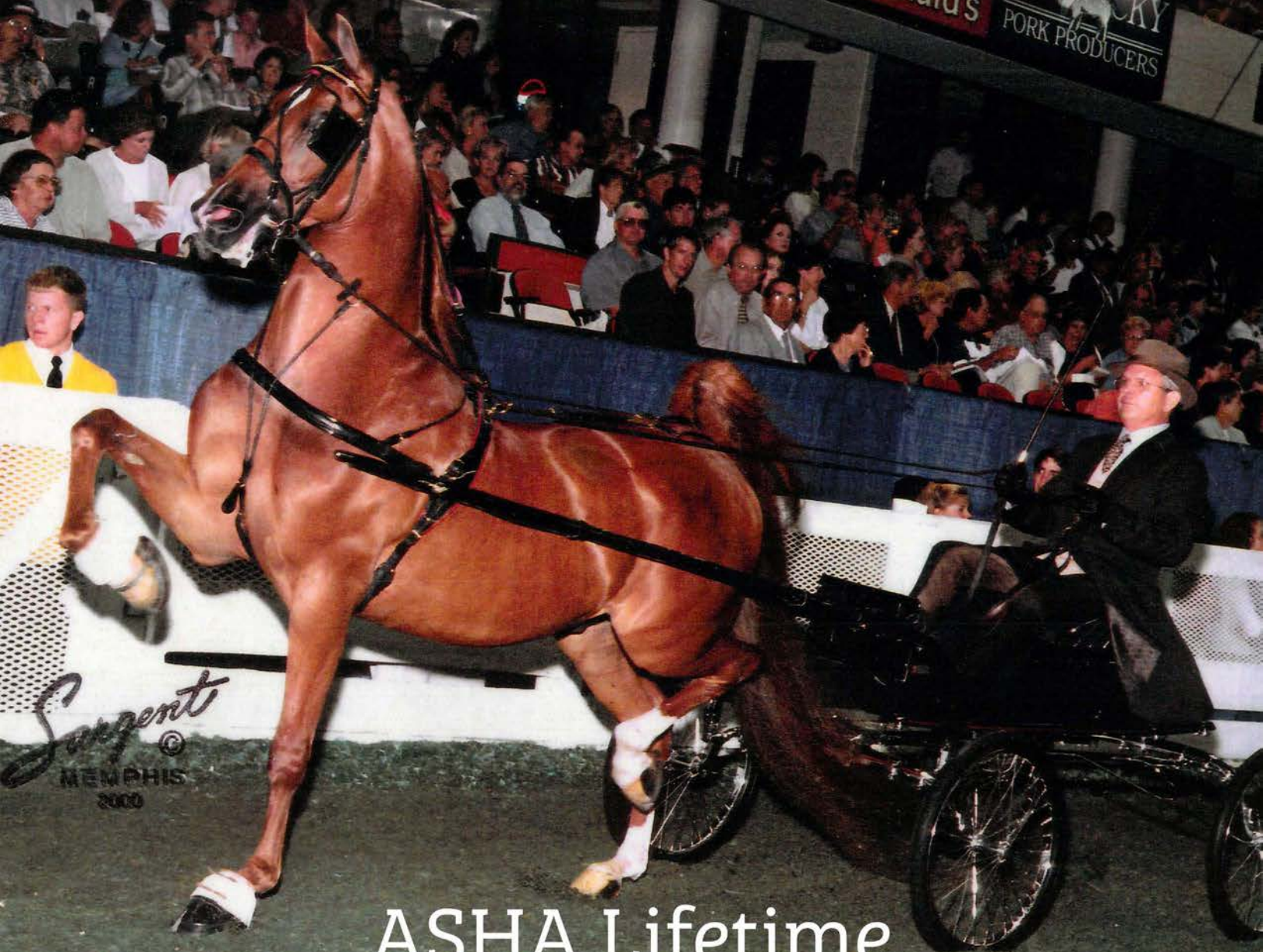


SPECIAL EDITION

# American SADDLEBRED Annual Convention

February 13-15, 2014



ASHA Lifetime  
Achievement Award  
Winner: Nelson Green

*Sargent*  
MEMPHIS  
2000



The 2014 ASHA Annual Convention and Youth Conference was held February 13-15, 2014 at the Hilton Lexington/Downtown, a new location for the convention. This year's convention featured exciting educational programs on breeding, marketing, and versatility, featuring some of the industry's most respected individuals, as well as field trips to American Saddlebred stables and the Kentucky RoundUp Horse Fair. The Convention unveiled ASHA's new marketing plan, spearheaded by Allen Bosworth. The convention culminated on Saturday evening with the annual adult and youth galas awarding special honors to exceptional American Saddlebred enthusiasts of all ages.



**MISSION:**  
**POSSIBLE**

The logo features the word "MISSION:" in a black, serif font, with a white silhouette of a rearing horse to its right. Below it, the word "POSSIBLE" is written in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font with a white outline. To the left of the text is a bright yellow starburst with several smaller white starbursts around it. The entire graphic is set against a background of a city skyline at dusk or dawn, with buildings illuminated and a colorful sky.

# ASHA COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETINGS

## CHARTER CLUB COUNCIL

The Charter Club Council meeting was led by committee chair, Susan Vine with an attendance of 10 members and 12 guests. The first item on the agenda was the High Point Awards Program. Betsy Boone and Susan Harris gave a brief history of the awards program. Stacey Kipper-Perrelli presented recommendations for the 2014 program year from the High Point Award Ad Hoc Committee. All recommendations were approved by the members unanimously. There was discussion on how to better promote this program, as there are still many who do not even realize it exists. Joan Booth, Carol Reedy and Susan Vine have drafted a brochure to make available to the Charter Clubs, all registered shows, and general membership to promote the program. The brochure will go to the ASHA for further editing and addition of new logo to become consistent with other ASHA materials before distribution.

Don Schilling reported on the new charter club, VERSA, which covers all disciplines and has membership throughout the United States. VERSA has 40 members from 16 states and Canada. All were invited to their meeting later in the day.

Stacey Kipper-Perrelli, Shelagh Roell, and Joan Booth have worked on updating the Horse Show Manual this past year, and a copy was passed for approval. It will be available on our website for printing or we will mail copies from the office and charge for shipping. There was also a suggestion to see if USEF would want to include on their website.

The last topic was how to stimulate participation in Charter Clubs. Ricky Drew had sent a survey to all the Charter Clubs and copies were provided. It was agreed to try to get more surveys in then compile a list of suggestions.

## CHARTER CLUB WORKSHOP

The Charter Club Workshop this year was an exchange of ideas on growing membership in the charter clubs and promotion of the breed. ASHA Executive Director Karen Winn reiterated the challenge to the clubs to increase the number of club members who are members of the ASHA. At present, about 17% of charter club



Horse Show Manual

members are members of ASHA. The clubs that have the greatest increase in 2014 in ASHA members will receive one free registration to next year's convention. Joan Booth suggested that each club's website should include the ASHA membership form. Brenda Newell will send the 2013 statistics to each of the clubs.

Ideas for increasing membership in the clubs included sponsoring a delegate to go to the ASHA Convention, those that have riding lesson programs to encourage the parents to ride, and designating a membership outreach person to make phone calls.

Suggestions for the promotion of the breed included finding out where the crowds are in your community and go there, having more education about the breed at shows, and working with 4-H, Girl Scouts, and other local community clubs.

## EQUINE WELFARE COMMITTEE

An important initiative and the main focus of the meeting was the Welfare Response System that the committee will be proposing to be used when identifying the level of action required when horses are in a possible distress situation. The committee is still tweaking this proposal that will be presented to the ASHA Board in the near future. A subcommittee was appointed to work on policies and procedures for the

ASHA website that will address "what to do" if abuse is suspected.

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee discussed efforts thus far to raise funds to cover the \$265,625 cost of the ongoing Technology Upgrade Project. Thanks to a recently announced affiliate grant from USEF in the amount of \$6961, and a recent major gift, the amount remaining to raise is down to \$51,708.

ASHA recently received a challenge from the Miller Foundation to raise \$25,000 which the Miller Foundation will match. The committee discussed strategies for completing this challenge through dedicating proceeds of the live auction at the ASHA convention to this project.

## HORSE SHOW COMMITTEE

The Horse Show Committee, led by ASHA Board members Randy Cates, Bob Funkhouser, and Jackie Hale, is tackling dual issues:

- 1) Shows that have big audiences but have trouble attracting American Saddlebred exhibitors
- 2) Shows that have plenty of American Saddlebreds, but few outside spectators.

Among potential solutions is bringing back outside entertainment. As Cates quoted his father, "They will come for the entertainment, but stay for the horses." Another trend is the diminishing number of multi-breed shows which expose the American Saddlebred to other breed supporters. The committee also addressed the probability that shorter evening sessions would be more spectator-friendly, especially for exhibitors' friends and family members who may not be "horse people." Additionally, if information were provided to the audience about the horses and riders being watched, more information about what's happening in the show ring, horse shows would be much more interesting to the casual spectator.

The need for community involvement is critically important to the future success of horse shows. The Shelbyville Horse Show was cited as an example of a show that has tremendous community participation.

The effort doesn't have to be huge;



# ASHA COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETINGS

improvements can be made by taking small steps such as taking one night of a horse show and putting a few new ideas into action.

As more ideas are put forward, it was suggested to have an online guideline on the ASHA web site where ideas could be posted for horse show committees.

## MEDIA/PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Media/Publications Committee discussed the success of the 2013 publications, including a \$50,000 increase in advertising revenue over the previous year.

The committee plans for a sponsored golf cart to deliver the American Saddlebred Daily publication along with coffee and donuts to the barns during the World's Championship Horse Show to increase distribution of the "Dailies," as well as to serve as hospitality on the behalf of ASHA for the Show.

The ASHA Membership Directory will be mailed in April to every ASHA Member. This is the first ASHA Membership Directory created since 2006.

The committee discussed the success of the 2014 *Journal of the American Saddlebred*, and ways to improve upon next year by hiring a proofreader and by continuing to expand the amount and type of advertisers.



2014-2015  
MEMBERSHIP  
DIRECTORY  
AMERICAN SADDLEBRED  
HORSE ASSOCIATION

2014-2015 Membership Directory

The American Saddlebred print magazine will return to those who have subscribed, and it will serve as a member benefit and promotional tool for various American Saddlebred events.

The three issues of the 2014 magazine will be timeless special editions, with the first issue highlighting the American Saddlebred's presence at BreyerFest.

## RIDING INSTRUCTOR COMMITTEE

The Riding Instructor Committee explained the roles of the three appointed subcommittees:

- 1) Subcommittee 1: Promotion of new saddle seat lesson programs, particularly in 'underserved areas'
- 2) Development of "best practices" for saddle seat lesson programs
- 3) Develop "Riding Program Council" Network

The first subcommittee has been working toward developing guidelines for the Marple Grant, which will give new riding lesson programs a headstart, as well as identifying underserved lesson program areas of the United States, and increasing the number of American Saddlebreds using in 4-H, Pony Club, and riding programs in existing college equestrian programs.

The second subcommittee is gathering results from the riding program survey that was sent to existing programs, developing the "How to Start A Riding Program" manual, and establishing an idea swap area on the ASHA website.

The third subcommittee created a Riding Program Council made of successful riding instructors in every region of the United States to serve as mentors for new riding instructors, as well as brainstormers for ASHA.

## RIDING PROGRAM COUNCIL

The inaugural meeting of the ASHA Riding Program Council was held with strong attendance from the council both in person and via teleconference.

The tasks for the Riding Program Council are multifaceted:

- Advertise the Marple Grant
- Study survey results to see what the trends and problems are in the industry
- Hold riding instructor meetings several times a year and a riding



Riding Lesson Program

instructors forum every year

- Form riding instructors groups affiliated with Charter Clubs and/or UPHA Chapters
- Form accreditation with ASHA
- Increase ASHA membership and participation in the ASHA Academy Awards
- Collect teaching tips and lesson plans that can be added to the Riding Instructor Manual
- Promote ASHA Programs.

During the meeting, thoughtful discussion about the success of each instructors' program was shared, and the council is looking forward to analyzing the results of the Riding Lesson Instructor survey and adding input to the Riding Instructor Manual.

## SPECIAL TASK FORCE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE ASHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The goals of the Special Task force for the Election of the ASHA Board of Directors are:

- 1) Review of current ASHA Bylaws provisions regarding election of Directors (i.e., should the stated criteria be revised, and should the criteria be mandatory or merely be among various factors to be considered? Also need to clarify the process, and to clarify that the ASHA Executive Committee has final approval rights regarding the proposed slate of candidates that is presented by the Nominating Committee; Executive Committee can either accept the slate, or suggest changes to the slate).
- 2) Development of a new Policy Document, which would establish a timeline (i.e., dates by which



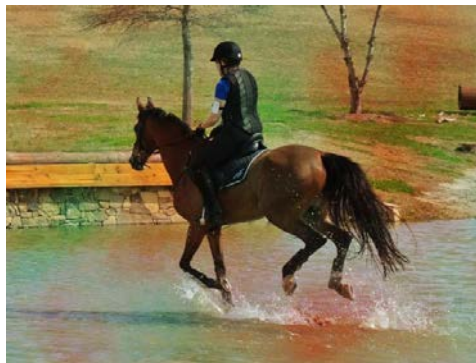
# ASHA COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETINGS

nominations must be submitted, dates for review, presentation of slate to the ASHA Executive Committee and Board, voting period); Policy Document will also clarify requirements (i.e., the ASHA must receive written nomination form for the current year with current information and will not automatically consider prior nominations unless these are resubmitted); specify that a minimum of nine (9) candidates will be contained on the ballot; recommend that each current ASHA Director should nominate (or encourage nominations) from at least three good candidates each year, to have a larger pool

- 3) Major revisions to the Nomination Form (i.e., have this 'mirror' our bio info that we have produced the last couple of years regarding director candidates, to summarize history in the American Saddlebred industry, professional background/education, key volunteer roles in non-Saddlebred areas, special areas of interest if elected to the ASHA Board, and vision for the ASHA)

The group discussed a desire for the ASHA's Executive Committee to provide information regarding current makeup of the Board and those who will be leaving the Board to the Nominating Committee at the outset of the process (this will be included in the Policy Document), so that the Nominating Committee will be aware of particular needs and will be mindful of the need for diversity on the Board (geographic/professional/age). The group also noted the need for better communication with the Executive Committee during the process, to give the Executive Committee an opportunity to mention any other factors that should be considered. The group agreed that we need to be mindful of the need to include younger folks on the Board.

Following helpful discussions, the group agreed that ASHA President, Tandy Patrick will prepare a first draft of proposed changes to the Bylaws, proposed changes to the Nomination Form, and prepare a draft of a Policy Document, all of which will be reviewed and discussed by the Task Force and then will be presented to the ASHA Board for consideration at its July 2014 Board meeting.



Juliette's Ultimate Romance participating in Eventing

## VERSATILITY COMMITTEE

The Versatility Committee is a sub-committee of the Charter Club Council that was appointed in 2011 to explore the formation of a group or club for those who use their American Saddlebreds in many different ways, those who Charter Clubs are geographically distant and those whose club is focused on a single discipline that may not be their preferred discipline. From this committee, the VERSA Club was formed and became an official ASHA Charter Club in December. It was agreed the committee has served its purpose and was not really necessary as a separate committee. The committee agreed that the Sport Horse and Versatility should merge as they both have the same members and are addressing the same topics and issues.

## YOUNG ADULT COMMITTEE

The eager ASHA Young Adult Committee discussed many new and exciting plans for this year. After finalizing plans for Young Adult Trivia Night and the field trip to Visser Stables, the committee discussed their main upcoming focus, BreyerFest 2014.

Since BreyerFest is the same weekend as the Lexington Junior League Horse Show, the committee discussed bussing BreyerFest visitors into the horse show at night, to experience the American Saddlebred. The committee also discussed the theme of *a horse for every discipline and age*, while thinking of American Saddlebreds to exhibit daily at BreyerFest.

The committee is also working to add an American Saddlebred to the Kentucky Horse Park's Hall of Champions, as well as adding an American Saddlebred group to the 2015 Kentucky Derby Parade. The committee looks forward to hosting another Junior Exhibitor/Young Adult mentorship event during Junior League, possibly held at BreyerFest.

To help fundraise for these exciting events, the Young Adult Committee is planning a benefit trail ride for May.



CH Sprinkles at BreyerFest 2012

# ASHA COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETINGS

## YOUTH COMMITTEES

ASHA Youth, Auction and Scholarship committees had a combined meeting led by Brenda Newell. Brenda went over the statistics for the year, showing overall participation in all the Youth Award programs as well as activities at the World's Championship Horse Show had increased.

Victoria Gillenwater had requested to be removed as chair of the Scholarship committee but would remain on as a member. Ron Merwin agreed to take the position of chair. The committee also agreed that the Scholarship and Auction Committees should be combined as the auction committee exists to fund the scholarships. The committee discussed decreasing the amount of each scholarship given each year to \$1000-\$1200 from the \$5000 we currently award. Currently, the auction and donations from the membership forms are our source of income. There was additional discussion on ways to help fund these scholarships including asking horse shows that have auctions to let us have one item that the funds would come to us. The committee was in agreement that donated lessons would be a good item to ask for inclusion. Leslie Rainbolt-Forbes, Renee Biggins, and Ron Merwin agreed to check with the shows in



ASHA Youth Clubs promoting the breed

their states. Also discussed was how difficult it is for recipients to make it to Louisville to receive their scholarships due to it being the first week of school and discussed moving it to the Junior League Horse Show and Brenda will check with the Junior League contact to see if they would be agreeable.

Leslie Rainbolt-Forbes suggested we have a community service project at the World's Championship Horse Show. This would also be helpful for those that have to miss school and need service hours for different projects.

Kaelyn Donnelly and Ashley Biggins have been working on the update of the ASHA Youth Leaders Manual over the past year. Kaelyn presented the draft for us to see and a couple of options for the cover. All were in agreement to accept the new document. There was discussion on how to present it to new clubs. There were suggestions to put in on a flash drive and print copies for those who request.

## AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The ASHA Board met on Thursday, February 13 and Saturday, February 15, 2014. The Thursday meeting was the last one for the "old" board, with outgoing board members Carl Holden, Margaret McNeese, and Germaine Johnson honored. Saturday the ASHA Board welcomed new members David Mount and Susan Shepherd, along with Matt Shiflet by phone.

The Board continued ongoing discussion of improvements to the World's Championship Horse Show with guest from the KY State Fair Board, Fred Sarver. Reports were heard from representatives of the American Saddlebred Museum, UPHA, Young Adults Committee, USEF, and the American Saddlebred Registry.

Treasurer Bill Whitley provided a summary of the 2013 year-end financial picture for ASHA, and presented the 2104 budget for approval. Fundraising for the Technology Improvement Project has been successful and the committee anticipates this project to be fully funded very soon. This project is on track to be finished by mid-summer 2014.

The ASHA Board approved proposed changes to the 3 and 4 year old Three

Gaited Sweepstakes classes which would permit horses to be shown with "mane optional"; also approved were changes to the High Point Awards Rules and National Pleasure Horse Rules.

The following were elected as officers for ASHA in 2014: President, Tandy Patrick; Vice President, Bob Funkhouser; Secretary, Betsy Boone; Treasurer, Bill Whitley. Also appointed to the Executive Committee: Jackie Hale, Holly Nichols, and David Rudder.

The ASHA Board agreed to hold its 2015 Convention in conjunction with the UPHA Meeting in Savannah, Georgia, in January 2015. The Publications Committee recommended offering a hard bound *Journal of the American Saddlebred* as an option for members to purchase next year, and to go forward with a limited printing of three issues of the *American Saddlebred* magazine for subscribers in 2014.

## PLEASURE DISCIPLINES COMMITTEE

The Pleasure Disciplines Committee approved revised specifications for the ASHA National Pleasure Equitation Championship class. Beginning in 2014 riders may also compete on horses registered with the Half American Saddlebred Registry of America. Complete class specifications are available on the ASHA website under Awards & Prize Programs, Pleasure Horse Awards.

The National Pleasure Horse rules were updated to reflect changes in USEF competition licensing that no longer require a minimum amount of prize money to be offered by USEF competitions. Starting with the 2014 competition year, the new classification of a show is based on the number of classes offered in the Pleasure Division: A - 10 classes, AA - 15 classes, and AAA - 20 classes.

The committee also discussed the Saddlebred Record Program as well as USEF Rule SB152 regarding English Country Pleasure. Judging specifications for Hunter Country Pleasure and the Saddle and Bridle Shatner Juvenile Western Pleasure class were also discussed, however, no changes were recommended at this time.



# ASR COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETINGS



## KENTUCKY AND NATIONAL FUTURITIES COMMITTEE

Registry statistics were discussed by ASR Registrar Lisa Duncan, and Patricia Edwards gave an update on the 2013 rule changes. The committee then discussed stallion nominations for owners who retain frozen semen. It was agreed to have this reviewed by legal counsel. There was some discussion on the number of entries in the Park class that was added in 2012 and the Buy-In program for three-year-olds in 2016.

The committee was asked by Lisa Duncan to consider possibly adding a free futurity mare nomination to the First Time Breeder Program or if a breeder is registering more than five foals. After a lengthy discussion, the committee agreed to give a 20% discount if five or more horses are paid and kept eligible for the futurity program. This would apply to each payment period. Due to current database restrictions, the discount would be considered for 2015 when the ASHA/ASR new database should be in place. It was also suggested that a discount in registration fees be given if five or more foals are registered.

The committee also discussed the National Three-Year-Old Five-Gaited, Three-Gaited, Park Pleasure and Park classes. A motion was made

that if any of these classes are split, stripping would only be required in the elimination classes and not in the finals. Motion passed with all in favor.

## SWEEPSTAKES COMMITTEE

Lisa Duncan discussed Registry statistics. There was some discussion on those statistics and how to increase participation in the Sweepstakes program, which included the Kentucky Breeders Incentive Program and stallion owners making the first nomination payment for a foal to be in the Sweepstakes program.

The committee discussed the possibility of adding a Park class to the ASR Three-Year-Old Sweepstakes. After a lengthy discussion, the committee agreed that the addition of a Park class would dilute the prize money. A motion was made to send a recommendation to the Standards and Rules Committee to allow horses competing in the ASR Three- and Four-Year-Old Sweepstakes Three-Gaited classes to be shown with a full mane in addition to a roached mane. Motion passed with all in favor. If approved, the Standards and Rules Committee would request a Presidential Modification from USEF to allow this change for the 2014 competition year.

## STATE FUTURITIES COMMITTEE

A report regarding Registry statistics was discussed by Lisa Duncan and Don Schilling discussed the payouts

of Limited Breeders Stakes and State Futurities that were listed in the American Saddlebred Journal.

Stacey Kipper asked if nomination forms for State Futurities could be posted on the new ASHA website. There was also some discussion to have reports to see if a foal did show in a futurity, if it was marked on the Application for Registration form. Buddy Waggoner discussed the issues with In-Hand classes and how to streamline getting colts in the ring in a timely manner. Jim Aikman advised the committee of a clinic he will provide before the AAC class in September 2014 on conditioning, training and showing colts. Stacey Kipper discussed a buy-in program offered by the Colorado Futurity and asked what other futurities are doing to fundraise.

## BREEDERS COMMITTEE

The possibility of a mare recognition program and Registry statistics were discussed by Lisa Duncan. The committee also discussed a stallion owners award. After a short discussion, a motion was made to consider in 2015, a tiered Mare High Point Program in 2015 and a Stallion Owners Award to be based on statistics. Motion passed with all in favor.

Bret Day advised the committee of a marketing plan that would be open to horses not showing at Louisville. These "Select Series" classes would be held at various major shows. There was also some discussion about Academy Programs, supporting other disciplines and how to get visitors to farms.



## SPORT HORSE COMMITTEE

The Sport Horse Committee discussed promotion of the American Saddlebred breed in non-Saddle Seat disciplines. The meeting covered revisions to the Sport Horse Programs. These include accepting Western Dressage results from competitions that are not recognized by USEF to count for

# ASR COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETINGS

the Sport Horse Incentive Program and for the Sport Horse Year End Awards Program effective for the 2014 competition year as well as a reduction in the enrollment fee for the Sport Horse Incentive Program from \$150 to \$100 starting with the 2015 competition year.

They also discussed several new marketing projects. A list of new initiatives include collaborating with trainers across the sport horse spectrum to offer training at a discounted rate for American Saddlebreds and developing a Saddlebred hunter incentive class to be held at either hunter jumper or multi-discipline competitions.

The Sport Horse section of the website will be enhanced and will include a list of professionals in the equestrian industry who are interested in being identified and available for assistance in evaluating American Saddlebreds and Half American Saddlebreds for the sport horse disciplines; marketing those individuals to the sport horse community; training those individuals for those disciplines; instructing and coaching riders and drivers for those disciplines with American Saddlebreds.

## STANDARDS AND RULES

The Standards and Rules Committee discussed a possible rule change regarding mandatory workouts in a Kentucky State Fair Championship class where the computer-generated first place horse does not receive a first place vote from any judge. The committee considered a report of first place results of the KSF Grand Championship classes for the last 10 years which showed that there was only one instance where the computer-generated first place horse did not receive a first place vote from any judge. After discussion the committee agreed that a rule change proposal was not necessary and they voted in favor of keeping the current majority opinion system.

A request for clarification of USEF Rule SB152 regarding English Country Pleasure was discussed after which the committee agreed that the class specifications are very well written as

is. A request to review USEF Rule SB158 regarding Appointments for Western Equipment was discussed and was referred to the USEF Saddlebred Committee. USEF staff reported relevant rule changes effective in 2014. These included changes to American Saddlebred Division Rules SB103 Definition of Maiden/Novice/Limit for riders/drivers, SB104 Electronic Communication Devices, SB115 Western Jog-Trot, SB161 Saddle & Bridle's Shatner Western Pleasure and Saddle & Bridle's Working Western Pleasure classes and Western Trail and SB167, SB170, SB171 Park Pleasure classes. These also included General Division Rules GR205 and GR206 Non-Members, GR414 Prohibited Practices, GR843 Mandatory Reporting & Cooperation of Horse/Pony Collapse, GR1011 Guest Judge, GR1072 American Saddlebred Judges and GR1304 Regulations Governing Showing under Judges, Stewards and Technical Delegates. The committee also reviewed the current Points of Emphasis document and agreed on changes for 2014.

They discussed the USEF system for large R and small r judges and agreed to do some more research on the system of rating judges now that competitions are no longer rated. They also considered a request from the Sweepstakes Committee to allow horses with full manes to show in the ASR Three-Year-Old and Four-Year-Old Three Gaited Sweepstakes classes. The committee agreed to request a presidential modification to the rules for 2014 and to submit an official rule change proposal for future years.

## AMERICAN SADDLEBRED REGISTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of the American Saddlebred Registry held a meeting on February 14, 2014, in conjunction with the ASHA's Annual Convention at the Hilton Hotel in Lexington.

The Registry implemented the First Time Breeder Promotion Program and the Mare Harmony Program in 2013. The First Time Breeder Promotion Program is for mare owners or lessees, who are first time breeders during

the 2014 breeding season. Stallion owners have generously donated one complimentary breeding to each of the 51 stallions enrolled in the program. The Mare Harmony Program provides a venue to advertise American Saddlebred mares for lease and for purchase of embryos and oocytes. There has also been a lot of discussion about the decline in foal registrations, not only in the number registered but in the number of foals born and not registered. Registry President Margaret McNeese has appointed a new ad hoc committee to look into possible incentives to encourage the registration of all foals. The committee will be conducting an online survey in the near future.

The following statistics were released during the Convention: 3,680 Transfers were processed in 2013 with 3,781 being processed in 2012; 1,536 Registrations were processed in 2013 with 1,802 processed in 2012; 440 stallions had a stallion service report filed in 2013 with 484 stallions filing in 2012; 2,326 mares were bred in 2013 with 2,521 being bred the previous year.

Jenny Taylor of the United Breeder's Committee reported to the Board on some of their initiatives. The registry agreed to collaborate with this committee and to forego the \$25 advertising fee for Mare Harmony in 2014. The Board approved a reduction in the enrollment fee for the Sport Horse Incentive Program from \$150 to \$100 starting with the 2015 competition year. They also approved allowing Western Dressage results from competitions that are not recognized by USEF to count for the Sport Horse Year End Awards Program and for the Sport Horse Incentive Program effective for the 2014 competition year. The Sport Horse section of the website will be enhanced and will include a list of professionals in the equestrian industry who are interested in being identified and available for assistance in evaluating American Saddlebreds and Half American Saddlebreds for the sport horse disciplines; marketing those individuals to the sport horse



# ASR COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETINGS

community; training those individuals for those disciplines; instructing and coaching riders and drivers for those disciplines with American Saddlebreds.

For the Saddlebred Record Program, they approved a proposal that horses with a foaling date of 40 years or more prior (which is the age we are now using to allow re-use of names for horses with no show records) be granted CH status when the Registry's own records indicate the horse is qualified. These horses will be subject to a review process.

The Board considered a request from the Sweepstakes Committee to allow horses with full manes to show in the ASR Three-Year-Old and Four-Year-Old Three Gaited Sweepstakes classes. The Standards & Rules Committee reviewed this request and agreed to ask USEF for a presidential modification to the rules for 2014 and to submit an official rule change proposal for future years.



## MARKETING PRESENTATION

### This is the American Saddlebred!

PLAY VIDEO ▶

Allen Bosworth, Chief Operating Officer of Erwin Penland Advertising and Chair of the ASHA's Marketing Committee, unveiled a new and exciting marketing plan, [video](#), and logo for ASHA. The new logo and marketing plan are a result of generously donated time and services.

The new marketing plan includes implementation of programs and initiatives to achieve the following goals:

1. Increase memberships in ASHA

2. Increase the registration of American Saddlebred Foals
3. Increase the number of Lesson Programs/Riding Instructors/ College Equine Programs using American Saddlebreds, including Saddle Seat, Hunt, Western, and other disciplines.
4. Effectively position the American Saddlebred so that we consistently represent the breed to key audiences.

Along with the strategic implementation of the aforementioned

goals, the ASHA has unveiled a new logo which was approved by the ASHA Board of Directors in January, and the slogan, "America's Spirited Beauty"... ASB..American Saddlebred.

With the new logo, slogan, and goals, the ASHA will completely rebrand the Association and all of its many facets, including its social media, website, and promotional materials

ASHA President Tandy Patrick complimented the Marketing Committee on the exciting unveiling of the new ASHA logo and marketing plan. "Everyone in our Association shares a passion for our horse and the desire to promote and expand our breed. We believe that we now have a road map that will enable us to move forward and truly make a difference!

In Allen's words, the way to climb a mountain is to put one foot in front of the other, one step at a time."



# ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

ASHA Members from across the country came to the Awards Luncheon to claim their National Highpoint and National Pleasure Horse Awards.

High Point Awards were awarded to American Saddlebreds and American Half-Saddlebreds competing in disciplines ranging from Open Five-Gaited to Dressage, Combined Driving, and Competitive Trail.



National High Point Award Winners



Charter Club of the Year winners, Northwest Saddlebred Association and Mid-America Saddle Horse Club



VERSA presented the outstanding Versatility Award to the St. Louis National Charity Horse Show



2013 Castleman Award Winner, John T. Jones

# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Membership meeting was well-attended. ASHA Executive Director Karen Winn noted that while memberships were down, the ASHA is faring very well compared to other breeds, since ASHA membership is only down less than half of one percent. Lisa Duncan, ASR Registrar, discussed the new Mare Harmony and First Time Breeders Programs that will encourage breeding. ASHA Treasurer Bill Whitley discussed the financial health of the Association, and President Tandy Patrick outlined the ASHA's year in review and future plans. Bob Ruxer and Fred Sarver were voted by the membership to the ASHA Board of Directors nominating committee.

Jim and Jenny Taylor gave a presentation on the "Future of the American Saddlebred" and noted that

if current trends continue, there will not be enough American Saddlebreds to fill the show ring and the demand for the breed. They encouraged responsible breeding, as well as for people to contact the trainers, mare owners, and stallion owners on the United Breeders Committee lists that are offering discounted rates.

Dr. Shelagh Roell was the elated winner of the free season to World's Champion American Saddlebred Stallion and World's Champion producer, I'm First. The stallion season was generously donated by Stonecroft.

Allen Bosworth also presented an abbreviated version of the ASHA Marketing Blueprint.



John Scheidt with the *I'm First* season winner, Dr. Shelagh Roell



# EDUCATIONAL TRACKS

On Friday and Saturday, Convention attendees were treated with the choice of three educational tracks, breeding, social media and website marketing, and American Saddlebred versatility. Discussions were held about each topic on Friday and on Saturday, attendees had the choice of attending the marketing website workshop, a field trip to Singing Hills Stables, or a field trip to the Kentucky RoundUp.



Breeding Track Panel: Shawn Stachowski, Judy Werner, Anne Neil, Joan Lurie, and Dr. Alan R. Raun D.V.M.

## A CANDID DISCUSSION ON THE STATE OF THE BREEDING INDUSTRY

A distinguished panel of breeders, Dr. Alan R. Raun, Joan Lurie, Anne Neil, Judy Werner and Shawn Stachowski shared their successes, their failures and their insight in regards to the continuing trend of declining foal registrations. Many thoughts were shared including suggestions by Anne Neil to provide quantity discounts on foal registrations for large breeders. There was also discussion similar to the marketing forum on the need to add “limit” or “select series” classes for the middle ground horse, but also to ask show management to stop from splitting so many classes to provide room in the schedule for the new classes and also to make for a more competitive horse show.

“We’ve got to stop trying to sell horses as a money making investment,” said Anne Neil. “We have to sell the horse as an investment in your family. It’s about spending time with your family.”

## SINGING HILLS STABLES FIELD TRIP

On Saturday morning, ASHA members who participated in the breeding field trip experienced a top American Saddlebred breeding facility, up close and personal. Singing Hills Stable graciously hosted the outing at their farm in Shelbyville, Kentucky. Singing Hills is owned by Gene and Analyze van der Walt, and Bill Blacklaw. Singing Hills was originally established in 1968 by Bill and the late Barbara Blacklaw; the farm relocated to Kentucky in 2010, where the operation has expanded to a 59-stall barn and state-of-the-art breeding and training facility.

Upon arrival at Singing Hills, guests enjoyed coffee and donuts in the cozy indoor BBQ area. Guests received complimentary Singing Hills and Tomcat computer mouse pads while Gene provided a brief history of the Singing Hills breeding operation. Guests then watched Gene implant a foal alert device in a pregnant mare due to foal in early March; Gene provided a step-by-step explanation as he sewed the foal alert device in place on the mare, and then explained exactly how the foal alert system works.

Next, Dr. Scott Bennett gave an informative presentation on the equine reproductive system, including a live ultrasound demonstration by Dr. Bennett performed on *Christmas in New York ERB*, who is the dam of *Undulata’s Nutcracker*.

The final demonstration was collection of semen from the stallion (SA) *Tomcat*. Gene cautioned guests to “stand back” as an assistant led the beautiful stallion from his stall to the dummy. Gene noted that *Tomcat* might not appreciate having such a large audience observe him, but this was not an issue at all! Analyze invited guests to look over her shoulder in her laboratory, where she carefully removed the semen from the artificial vagina, checked the semen under her microscope then stored it carefully, and packaged up portions for shipping.

Throughout the morning, Gene, Dr. Bennett, and Analyze provided background on the business of horse breeding, and guests left Singing Hills with a first-hand idea of what really happens at a breeding operation.



Chad Mendell leading a seminar on Marketing

## MARKETING TRACK: ONLINE WORKSHOP

Saturday was a do-it-yourself website building workshop. ASHA members who are stable owners, trainers, charter club officers, and horse show volunteers gathered together in a classroom setting to build from scratch or remodel their website with the assistance of Chad Mendell, Jackie Hale, and Eva Mores. Special thanks to the sponsors of the Marketing Track: Robertson Equine Sales, Silvermane Media, and Horse Lingo.



## MARKETING TRACK: SOCIAL MEDIA 101 AND ONLINE MARKETING

The Marketing Track featured two seminars on Friday led by Chad Mendell of Equestrian Professional. Chad first compared various Social Media channels, such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Google +. He



# EDUCATIONAL TRACKS

then discussed how to drive customers through the sales funnel from these channels to your website, then eventually into your door as a customer. The second seminar focused on Internet Marketing and the elements of a successful website.

## AOT/VERSATILITY TRACK: WISE CHOICES FOR PERFORMANCE SUCCESS

Paula Briney moderated a breakout session on choosing the correct type horse for various disciplines. After introducing guest speakers and trainers Keith Harger and Scott Matton, she asked them to comment on what qualities they look for in horses for Western and Hunter Pleasure. Harger said that every horse he's ever started was intended for saddle seat, but no matter the discipline you want a nice horse. He looks for a horse that is quick to train, intelligent and pushes off the back end. Once he spends some time with a horse, it will tell him what it wants to do. Matton also starts all his prospects with the same basics – "turn left, turn right, go forward, raise up and drop over." Whatever the horse is intended for, it has to like what it's doing. Both agreed that Hunter and Western require different frames; they are different horses.

Briney reviewed the specs for an open

sport horse type, particularly dressage. Among other qualities, it has to have a good walk, open and swinging. She said that based on current trends, the "old style" American Saddlebred – heavier boned but pretty – is the new style Warmblood.

## AOT/VERSATILITY TRACK: DRESSAGE FOR ALL DISCIPLINES

Debbie Banfield, Gayla Driving Center, Georgetown, KY presented a series of slides demonstrating American Saddlebreds and Half American Saddlebreds as singles and pairs in combined driving. With each example she explained what to look for relating to conformation and movement. Along with Banfield's commentary, Wayne Quarles, US Pony Clubs staff and Dressage judge, provided comparables to ridden dressage.

When asked, Quarles said he doesn't see a lot of Saddlebreds and crosses in Dressage that he's aware are Saddlebreds. He does see some Saddlebreds in eventing.

Smith Lilly, West Virginia, said that he uses basic Dressage components when starting a young horse and considers it putting a nice foundation on a horse. He said that raising a head too high too soon tends to create a hollow back. He likes to do a lot of time in the jog cart to help strengthen the back.

Kathie Dunn Jacobsen, California, has begun competing her western pleasure horse in Western Dressage. It gives her horse something new to do and think about and keeps her occupied. She said that Western Dressage has helped her horse's halt and canter departure in the pleasure show ring. Jacobsen said that Western Dressage is more relaxed or informal than traditional dressage and American Saddlebreds are being well received.

## KENTUCKY ROUNDUP VERSATILITY DEMONSTRATION

American Saddlebred enthusiasts braved snowy weather Saturday morning to travel to the Kentucky Horse Council's Kentucky RoundUp Horse Fair at the Alltech Arena to watch an American Saddlebred Versatility demonstration. Both adults and youth convention goers watched as Carrie Ostrowski demonstrated the sport of Combined Driving with Varoom, Mary Kate Fahy rode her Hunter Under Saddle, Gilded Image, and Alex Rudder rode I'm A Rule Breaker to demonstrate the suitability of American Saddlebreds for junior exhibitors. Trainer Smith Lilly provided interesting commentary on the history of the breed and the horses in the ring for the audience.



American Saddlebred *Juliette's Ultimate Romance* in dressage competition



# ASHA YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES

## YOUNG ADULT AMERICAN SADDLEBRED TRIVIA NIGHT

Young Adults (ages 20-35) gathered at the Hilton's Big Blue Martini Bar on Valentine's Day evening to participate in American Saddlebred Trivia, playing for a \$2,000 cash prize and a case of Arabella Wines. The wine was sponsored by Nic DeWet's

Arabella Wines and the cash prize was sponsored by Dr. John Cummins, Jason Gershman, Ashley Hallock, Mary Krentz, and Cindy Willimon. Elisabeth Goth served as emcee, Lauren Ashe was the quizmaster, Matthew Williams and Kyle Bailey were tabulators, and Ashley Hallock and Michelle Partridge were on cell phone patrol.

The event was great fun, and even the "young at heart" attendees were hoping for a chance to play. The ASHA Young Adult committee looks forward to hosting more trivia nights, and congratulates the winners, Team Gone With The Wind—Kimberly Hayes, Carissa Marshall, Megan McClure, and Emma Nichols on winning the inaugural event.



Tabulators Kyle Bailey, Matthew Williams, and Ashley Hallock



Ethan Roetman, Fatima Wazir, Justin Shaw, Mackenzie Lyttle, and Sarah Bennett



Emma Nichols, Megan McClure, Michelle Partridge, Lauren Ashe, and Elisabeth Goth



Elisabeth Goth served as the event's emcee



Sarah Bennett presented Arabella Wines to the winning team



Team *Gone With The Wind* won Trivia Night



# ASHA YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES

Test your American Saddlebred knowledge with this sampling of questions from Young Adult Trivia Night



## QUESTION 1 – 10 POINTS

The duel between CH Emperor and CH Sky Watch will go down as the American Saddlebred breed's most famous. In what years did CH Emperor win the gaited stake?

- a) 81, 83, 84, 85
- b) 80, 81, 83, 84
- c) 82, 83, 84, 88
- d) 80, 81, 85, 86



## QUESTION 2 – 10 POINTS

In 2013, Melinda Moore won the Three-Gaited World's Grand Championship aboard Sir Silver Knight, only the second stud to win the walk/trot stake. Her father, Tom Moore rode the only other stud to the Three-Gaited World's Grand Championship, what was his name?



## QUESTION 3 – 5 POINTS

At the Kentucky State Fair in 2000 there was a work-out in the Junior Exhibitor Five-Gaited 14-17 qualifier, but the winner stayed in center ring. Which horse was this?



## QUESTION 4 – 5 POINTS

What is the name of the only horse that has ever won both the Five-Gaited World's Grand Championship and the Three-Gaited World's Grand Championship?



Question 3: CH Moonchance  
Question 4: Memories' Citation

Answers  
Question 1: D  
Question 2: CH Valley View Supreme

# ASHA YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES

## YOUNG ADULT FIELD TRIP: VISSER STABLES

The morning after Young Adult Trivia Night, a large group of young adults gathered at Visser Stables for a

special field trip. Visitors were treated to a delicious brunch sponsored by Elisabeth Goth LLC, and an exciting array of some of the nation's top American Saddlebred show horses.

Sarah Bennett was the lucky drawing winner for a ride on World's Grand Champion, *Bravo Blue*. She did a wonderful job riding him, and described it as a lifetime highlight.



Elisabeth Goth sponsored a delicious brunch for the Young Adults



Kyle Bailey, Matthew Williams, and Michelle Trowbridge



Mackenzie Lyttle, Sarah Bennett, and Meredith Steinhauer



Anne Tiemey Smith, Barclay DeWet, Chelsea Ruxer, and friend



Emma Nichols, Carissa Marshall, Kimberly Hayes, and Megan McClure



Fort Chiswell's Royal Kiss Poses for a Photo



Everyone enjoyed the field trip



Fort Chiswell's Royal Kiss enjoying attention from the Young Adults



Sarah Bennett riding *Bravo Blue*

Photo by Stevie B Photography



# ASHA YOUTH EVENTS

## GAME NIGHT

Opening night of the youth conference was all about making new friends and working together as a team. During the youth games each participant drew a number which corresponded to the team that they would be working with

throughout the evening. Each group picked their own team name and worked together, competing for points against other teams in each of the various activities. From relay races, to untangling the human knot, and putting together the best themed skit; each team prevailed in working with new

people by coming together and turning out some fabulous performances. The winning team was awarded the grand prize which came in the shape of a chocolate horse shoe. It was great to see that youthful energy and enthusiasm and fueling of the team spirit.



Youth mingling at a Friday Night Event



Friday Night Youth Events included impromptu skits by each team



Youth posing at Friday Night Event



Team skits during Friday Night Event



Team skits during Friday Night Event



Team member showing off her prize



# ASHA YOUTH EVENTS

## FIELD TRIP JOURNAL BY: ALLISON CLOUD, BIGGINS BRIDLE BUNCH, SIMPSONVILLE, KY.

This year's ASHA Youth Conference was full of new and exciting experiences, from a new location to the addition of the Junior Gala. Even though several youth groups couldn't attend due to weather, those who were there had a great time.

Saturday morning of the ASHA Youth Conference started with a grab-and-go breakfast. Delicious biscuits, croissants, and muffins were served. After a brief wait, members of youth clubs from across the nation loaded onto the busses.

Our first stop was the Alltech Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Kentucky Horse RoundUp. Equine demonstrations were held in the main arena. These included trick horses, mounted games, and western dressage.

Saddlebreds were also well represented with their versatility shown through Driving, Hunt Seat, and Saddle Seat performances.

We also checked out the various vendors and information booths around the arena. The North American Racing Academy, Life Adventure Center, and UK Rodeo Team offered opportunities to try out vaulting, race style riding, and roping. Other popular stops were the Pony Club, Breyer, and Commotion booths. Outside in the *Wild About Horses* area we could visit with some of the equine stars of the day and have our questions about them answered.

At the Awards Luncheon, riders from eight barns were present to receive their Academy Award medals. From bronze to master gold, everyone was proud of their achievement. After enjoying a southern style lunch we returned to the main arena to see Saddlebreds Sudsy and Spiffy, who

are both rescues, presented to the public.

Mechanical problems were discovered on one of the busses and after waiting for a replacement, we made our way to Diamond View Farm in Versailles. Three horses were presented to us. *Fifty Shades*, a two-year-old by Master Class, was presented to us first. Next we were shown *The Class Belle*, a three-year-old walk/trot mare. The final horse shown to us was *He's Taylor Made*, a five-gaited gelding who was very popular with the group.

Our day ended back at the hotel. Many of the youth stayed at the conference that evening to attend the Junior Gala. After many awards were presented, with Youth Club of the Year going to the Bridleway Barn Stormers and the Biggins Bridle Bunch, the ASHA Youth Conference came to a close with a fun night of dancing.



Summer Camps Basket by Biggins Bridle Bunch, winner of the basket contest



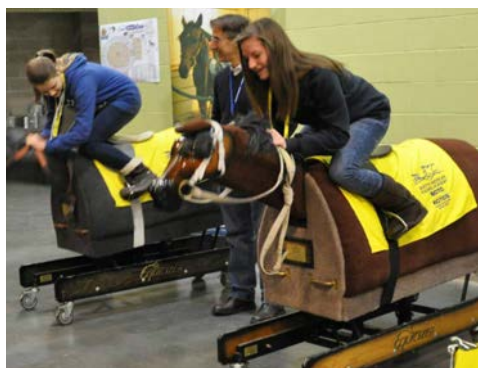
Academy Award winners from Biggins Bridle Bunch



Youth enjoying activities at the Kentucky RoundUp



Alex Rudder in our Equine demonstrations at the Kentucky RoundUp



Learning to ride a racehorse at the Kentucky RoundUp



Kristen Bagdassarian & *He's Taylor Made*

# ASHA YOUTH EVENTS

## YOUTH GALA

This year, the ASHA Youth had their very own gala on Saturday evening. The evening began with a delicious Tex-Mex buffet and the youth were on the dance floor before we even began awards! Youth Club awards were presented in two groups this year, one to "small" clubs with fewer than 30 members or brand new clubs and again to "large" clubs with over 30 members.

The Youth Club of the Year presented to the less than 30 member group went to the

Biggins Bridle Bunch from Simpsonville, Kentucky. The Youth Club of the Year for the club with more than 30 members was presented to the Bridleway Barn Stormers from Scottsdale, Arizona. Other awards were presented for history, membership, fundraising, promotions, and meetings categories.

Many youth and adults were treated to door prizes this year, thanks to some generous donors. The rest of the evening was danced away with music from Dance Traxx and

DJ Jonathan Scott. At some points of the evening, there were two dance floors going!



First on the dance floor at the Youth Gala



# AMERICAN SADDLEBRED MUSEUM EXHIBIT OPENING

## OAK HILL FARM – A JEWEL OF THE BLUEGRASS

The American Saddlebred Museum celebrated the Opening of its 2014 exhibit, *Oak Hill Farm - A Jewel of the Bluegrass*. Held on Valentine's night during ASHA's Annual Convention, the exhibit features items from the collection of the late Jean Mclean Davis. Relatives, former employees, friends and Convention attendees perused the trophies, works of art, furnishings, ribbons and photos acquired during Davis' lifetime in the Saddlebred industry.

Over 225 guests enjoyed complimentary wines provided by Nic DeWet's Toast of Kentucky, a complimentary bourbon and whiskey tasting supplied by Rod and Rifle and a dinner dine-around at the Museum. A photo/video montage highlighting the life of the first lady of Oak Hill Farm played continually in two theaters.

Opening night offered a chance for guests to experience the new Lifetime Achievement Exhibit. Located in the main entrance to the Museum, the interactive touch screen exhibit celebrates special people and horses that are important to the industry. Made possible through the generosity of the Crabtree Family and Donors to the Museum's 2012 Annual Campaign, the first installment

honors Charles Crabtree, Helen K. Crabtree, C.J. "June" Cronan, Jr., Nola E. Minton, Garland Bradshaw, Alvin Ruxer, <sup>CH</sup>Roxie Highland and <sup>CH</sup>Forest Song.

If you were unable to attend the opening, be sure to stop by the Museum during the coming year for a glimpse into the history of Oak Hill Farm, and the lives of those featured in the Lifetime Achievement Exhibit.

*Oak Hill Farm - A Jewel of the Bluegrass* will run through January 31, 2015. Admission to the American Saddlebred Museum is included with every Kentucky Horse Park ticket purchase. The Museum is open daily 9-5 from March 15-October 31 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays November 1-March 14). For more information contact Museum curator Kim Skipton at either 859/ 259-2746 or Kim@asbmuseum.org.



Kim Skipton & Tolley Graves



Katy Hannah, Heather DiGiannantonio, & Jessie Richardson



Nic & Barclay DeWet, Sarah Bennett, & Mackenzie Lytle

Photos by Laura Baker Slanton

# LEGENDS OF SATURDAY NIGHT: FINE HARNESS EDITION



Fine Harness Legends

Completing the Legends of Saturday Night luncheon series was this year's Fine Harness edition.

ASHA Board Member Bob Funkhouser served as emcee and the legends shared interesting stories about the journey and the horses gave them legend status.

Don Judd, Bill Walsh, John T. Johns, Melinda Moore, Larry Hodge, Kathy Barlow, Sandy Lilly, Jim Lowry, Bret Day, and Nelson Green were the guests of honor, and after sharing their stories, they signed the Fine Harness Legends posters.

After the Legends shared their stories, a special video tribute for Donna Moore played, and Nelson Green and Melissa Moore shared their memories of Donna.

If you were not able to attend this capstone event, copies of the DVD and commemorative poster are available for purchase, [here](#).



Legends OF Saturday Night - Fine Harness Collage



# ASHA ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS



Melissa Heres and Mitch Clark

## FRANK OGLETREE YOUTH AWARD: MELISSA HERES

Melissa Heres started riding before she could walk, in her native Germany while her mother, horse trainer Lisa Rosenberger Jones, promoted the American Saddlebred throughout Europe in exhibitions and shows. Her first horses were a pair of matching trick ponies given to her by the owner of a famous German horse circus when she was just three years old. By the age of four Melissa was riding both ponies by herself at all gaits through the German forest.

Melissa and her family moved to America when she was eight-years-old, where she started showing very successfully in Academy competitions and in the Equitation division. Melissa's mother gave her *Highland's Surprise*, who Melissa initially campaigned as a Five-Gaited Pleasure horse and then decided to train all by herself to compete in the hunter/jumper division. Melissa has shown *Surprise* for the past three years in both Saddlebred competitions and on the hunter/jumper circuit; Melissa and *Surprise* were the high point "Hunter Over Fences" in the 2011 Rivermont Series, as well as being the 2011 high point winner for all regions in the ASHA's "Hunter Over Fences" category. *Surprise* was also the ASHA Region 10 Country Pleasure winner, the American Saddlebred of Georgia Ambassador Saddlebred in 2009, as well as Horse World's "People's Choice Hunter Of The Year" in 2012. Melissa is currently showing a new horse, the former World's Champion Junior Five-Gaited horse *It's All About Me*.

Melissa has been a member of the ASHA since 2001, and a member of ASHAG Charter Club since 2005. She has been a USEF High School Athlete for three years (2011, 2012, 2013) and received a varsity letter for horseback riding. In 2011 she was the UPHA Chapter 17 Juvenile Sportsmanship Award recipient

Melissa also participated in the 2012 UPHA Chapter 17 Horsemanship Challenge, and won the Pride Of Georgia Award in 2013 presented by the American Saddlebred Horse Association of Georgia.

Melissa is also an excellent student. She is a junior in High School and has a 3.9 GPA in College prep, advanced and AP classes, and has maintained a 3.9 GPA or higher for her entire life, despite the fact that her first language is German. Melissa was recognized as the Rotary International Terrific Student Of The Month award in the 8th grade, and she is a member of the National Honor Society, German Club, BEAR (Bettering the Environment Around Rome) and the Key Club. This past summer Melissa traveled to Costa Rica on the EF Touch of the Tropics tour to learn about environmental awareness. This diverse young lady is also a PADI Certified Open Water Scuba Diver, as well as an accomplished snow skier.

Melissa is very competitive, but she knows that being a good sport is more important than winning. Melissa always encourages and congratulates her fellow competitors. If one of her friends doesn't have the best ride, she is always the first to help them feel better about themselves. Melissa always tries to be a good example for our young competitors.



Kent Moeller, Carol Reedy, and Nancy Troutman

## LURLINE ROTH SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD: CAROL REEDY

Carol was born and raised in Leesburg VA, where she was very active in 4-H, showing Hampshire sheep & Angus beef calves. She graduated from Roanoke Memorial School of Nursing with an RN degree. After working in pediatrics for four years, she transferred to the operating room where she was a surgical first assistant, specializing in pediatrics and ophthalmology. She retired after 24 years and began devoting herself to stained glass art, in which she has been

an artist for the past 30 years. Carol creates custom original equine artwork in her business, "Equus In Glass". A woman of many talents, Carol is also a certified interpreter in American Sign Language for the deaf. She has been married to Chuck, aka "her rock", for 30 years.

Carol began taking riding lessons in the late 1980s after attending the Roanoke Valley Horse Show and seeing American Saddlebreds in action. After several "starter" horses, her first real show horse was *Shawnee Admiral*. She moved up to the Three-Gaited division and showed several noteworthy horses including *Omerta*, *Spool's Top Star*, and her current Three-Gaited mount *UnChaperoned*. In 2014 she will move into a new division, fine harness, with *Take Me Home Tonight*.

Carol is the current President of the American Saddlebred Horse Association of Virginia, and has served in this position for the past ten years. She is a member of the ASHA's Charter Club Council as Vice Chairman for two years, and she has also served on the ASHA Nominating Committee for Directors. Carol has been an Associate member of the UPHA (Chapter 18) for the past 10 years; she received the UPHA Associate Member Award in 2013, and she was inducted into the ASHAV Hall of Fame in 2012.

Carol promotes the grace, intelligence and versatility of the American Saddlebred by setting up educational booths at equine symposiums and equine events across Virginia.



Bill Marple and Mitch Clark

## ASHA 2014 C. J. CRONAN SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD: MITCHELL CLARK

Garland Bradshaw, one of the greatest American Saddlebred trainers of all times, was the grandfather of Mitch Clark. Mr. Bradshaw's love for American Saddlebreds and Saddlebred people



# ASHA ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

shaped the direction of his grandson's life. Mitch bought his first horse at Tattersalls with his savings and his grandfather's blessing. Mitch did all the training, and showed the horse the following year wearing a borrowed riding suit to a second place ribbon at the Kentucky State Fair Horse Show. At age 14, the hook was set for Mitch.

Mitch worked with his grandfather until Mr. Bradshaw's retirement in 1977, at which time Mitch started working a few horses by himself, hoping to find that "special" horse. Mrs. Large sent <sup>CH</sup>*Skywatch* to Mitch, who indeed turned out to be that special horse.

In January of 1983, Mitch lost his barn in a fire, but thankfully was able to save two special horses, <sup>CH</sup>*Skywatch* and *New York New York*. Mitch took a job training for Scripps Miramar Ranch and Bancroft Horse Farm in California. In 1995 he returned to his hometown of Danville, Kentucky and rented stalls at Reverie Knoll Farm. In 1999 Mitch built a barn on part of the farm that was left after the barn burned. Just a month ago, Mitch purchased Woodstock Farm which is adjacent to Mitch's present stables; Woodstock was previously Ridgefield Farm, the original farm his grandfather bought when he moved to Kentucky. Mitch associates the farm with so many special memories of his time with his grandparents and parents.

Mitch says that he is thankful for special people, a chance to make some exciting horses, and a chance to pay forward in an industry that leaves him with no regrets.



Bill Marple and Melissa Moore

## **MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD: MELISSA MOORE**

As the owner and manager of Sunrise Stables in Versailles, KY, Melissa Moore is more than just a horse trainer. In addition to turning out champion show horses, she also runs a successful breeding program which stands three

stallions, and she cares for approximately twenty-five broodmares. Melissa is known for doing whatever it takes to promote the American Saddlebred in a positive light. She has developed new and innovative programs such as the extremely successful Bluegrass Futurity; conducted several clinics throughout the years as far away as England and Canada; and strives to promote the Saddlebred in a variety of disciplines. Melissa is the current President of the Kentucky Saddlebred Breeders and Owners Association, and she serves on the ASHA Breeders committee, the ASHA Futurity committee, the USEF Roadster committee, the USEF National advisory committee, and the Worlds Championship Horse Show advisory committee. She has been a part of the very successful All American Cup Stallion Tour since its inception, hosting hundreds of people and numerous visiting stallions at her farm each year. Always game for showing off the American Saddlebred to a larger audience, Melissa drove one of her World's Champion Fine Harness horses in the opening ceremonies and daily breed demonstrations at the 2010 World Equestrian Games. Last fall, Melissa participated in the inaugural saddle seat/hunter swap at the Alltech National Horse Show. If donning hunt seat attire and jumping a 2'6" course are what it takes to promote the business, Melissa is the first to sign up!

Aware of the prestige that comes with being a successful horse trainer, Melissa tries to find creative ways to influence the youth of the American Saddlebred industry in a positive manner. From hosting ASHA youth luncheons and farm tours to housing her junior exhibitors during the summer, she understands the necessity to serve as a role model to those who admire her. Additionally, she always welcomes interns from the equestrian colleges each summer, and truly embraces the opportunity to work with the next generation of the industry's trainers and instructors. She hosts a class of foreign students from the University of Kentucky Equine program each year at her farm.

Melissa believes it is important to do her part to maintain the integrity of the industry by serving as a judge for horse shows from coast to coast; she judges about five shows a year.

Born into the business as the daughter of legendary Hall of Fame horse trainers Tom and Donna Moore, and sister to World's Champion trainer Melinda Moore, Melissa is grateful for the opportunities and education she received from an early age. Completely dedicated and quite the perfectionist, Melissa always strives to enhance her own abilities, as well as her customers, to bring out the absolute best in her horses and riders.



<sup>CH</sup>Callaway's Annabel Allison with Debbie Foley

## **ASHA HORSE OF THE YEAR: <sup>CH</sup>CALLAWAY'S ANNABEL ALLISON**

**[From Annabel Allison's trainer, owner and exhibitor, Debbie Foley, the owner and operator of Silver Brook Stables in Louisville, Kentucky]:**

I purchased *Callaway's Annabel Allison* (aka Ricketta) as an unbroken two-year-old from Callaway Hills; they turned her loose in the bullpen for me to see her, as she was only barely broke to lead. She was shipped to me loose in a box stall in the truck with a very long catch rope on. She has been at best very challenging to break; I am the only person to ever ride or show her. I broke and gaited her myself; she was 5 years old before I ever got her to her first horse show, where she tried to jump the rail during the class. After taking her to only four horse shows, I was able to get her finished enough to win both the ladies mare class and the ladies stake at Louisville in 2009. In 2010, I started showing her in the open division, and she has never been beaten in a mare class, winning the mare stake at Louisville in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. She was second in the stake in 2010 and 2012.

2011 brought a year of serious medical conditions with her which started at Louisville when she was a dull 4th in the stake after getting a spider bite the night before the stake. 24 hours of medication and hot compresses left her dull and provided for the worst show she has ever made for me. The fall of that year landed her in the clinic with life threatening stomach issues that made her miss Kansas City that year. She had previously won the stake at Kansas City in 2010; she won again at Kansas City in 2012 and 2013.

The recovery she made from these problems left her with time consuming care to maintain her health. In addition to her morning training, she must be hand-walked every afternoon for 20 minutes,



# ASHA ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

and twice a day every Sunday or holiday when we are not working. This is something I have personally done every Sunday and holidays since 2011, so we have developed a very close bond. It took until she was 6 to get her broke; she destroyed numerous jog carts in the process.

It has been my lifelong dream to win the gaited stake at Louisville since the first time I saw an American Saddlebred horse at Louisville, sitting in the second row from the top when *My My* won the gaited stake. This mare has taken me to the place I have always dreamed of, and for that I will take care of her the rest of her life. She will never leave my farm and she will continue to show until she lets me know she doesn't want to do that anymore, and then she can be a broodmare. She has a home for life.



Sarah & Vernon Wise, Jr.

## PAUL AND DOROTHY GILLENWATER FAMILY AWARD: VERNON WISE, JR. FAMILY

Vernon Wise Sr. never showed an American Saddlebred horse in his life. But, in the 1940s, he wanted to inspire his three children not to smoke. The family lived on a street in Butler, PA, where backyard horses were common. All were American Saddlebreds. So, when oldest son, Vernon Jr. was 14 years old, his parents had a small barn built, and four horses arrived the following week.

The challenge was this: "If anyone was ever caught smoking, EVERYONE would lose ALL riding privileges, FOREVER. The barn and horses could be taken away as quickly as they had arrived." This was the beginning of the Wise Family's love for the American Saddlebred.

Not far away, Sarah Cromwell was also raised with backyard ponies. After competing for a scholarship in the Miss America pageant, Sarah met and married Vernon Wise, Jr. Soon after,

their daughter Jamie and son Chip were born.

It was time for a horse.

The search identified a 12-year-old gelding, renamed *Gentleman Jim*. His kind, trustworthy character meant that even eight-year-old Chip could walk, trot and canter this new addition to the Wise family. *Gentleman Jim* became the 1971 ASHA Pleasure Horse of the Year, shown by Sarah.

After years of traveling mostly to nearby shows, the 1980s and 90s saw the arrival of six grandchildren, more horses, and an expanding calendar of shows in which the Wise Family participated. Jamie's *Starmaker's Southern Star* won the 1989 World's Champion Weanling and the 1990 Reserve World's Champion Yearling Futurity with trainer Carter Cox.

*Starmaker's Silhouette*, also with Carter Cox, was the 1992 Reserve World's Champion Two-Year-Old Fine Harness Sweepstakes, and *Pure Radium*, trained by Dave Becker, won the 1989 Three-Year Old Three-Gaited Sweepstakes.

Meanwhile, Vernon was showing *Morning Time*, purchased from Dick Kearney and trained by Tom Ferrebee, who rode her to a Reserve World's Championship in the 1983 Junior Five-Gaited Mare stake. At home Grandpa Vern was having fun showing with 12-year-old grandson Vance Smith in the Amateur Five-Gaited classes.

Sarah Wise, wearing her distinctive yellow linen coat, went on to win many classes, aboard <sup>CH</sup>*I'm Somebody's Gentleman*, <sup>CH</sup>*Born a Gentleman*, and <sup>CH</sup>*Million Dollar Man* with trainers, George Knight, Ann and Don Judd, and Sarah and Dave Patton. <sup>CH</sup>*Cat Cracker*, bred by Jamie and owned by Sarah, won the 1996 National Three-Year-Old Park Pleasure Futurity with Jenny Taylor.

*Sir, Yes Sir*, owned by Jamie and her husband Addison Lanier, won the 2007 Two-Year Old Five-Gaited Futurity, with Carter Cox. Addison is a nephew of former ASHA president Ike Lanier, who was owner of *Kalarama Colonel* and among the 1961 first class of inductees into the World's Championship Horse Show Hall of Fame.

Jamie's daughter, Sarah Jane Smith, was working hard in the Equitation Division under the direction of Kathy and Gene Boggs, and Erin and Reese Richey. Sarah Jane was in the top ten in the medal finals in 2007 and 2008 aboard *Undulata's Time to Shine*.

Chip Wise returned to showing with his wife, Cheri. Cheri and *Water, Water Everywhere* were 4 times World Grand Champion Parade Horse from 2009 to 2012. Chip showed the hackney pony, *Charmed Masterpiece*, winner of the 2010 Three-Year old Hackney Pleasure Pony futurity, in 2011, and he is currently showing *Front Page News*.

In 2011, *Callaway's Gabriel*, trained by Dena Lopez and Jamie Lanier won the National Five-Gaited Pleasure Championship.

In summer of 2013, Sarah Wise and *Gypsy's Gentleman* won their division of the World's Championship Show Pleasure Driving Championship. The Wise Family took this as confirmation of something Vernon has told them for years: "All good things come to those that wait."

Vernon Wise continues to show *Gypsy Party Doll* in the Gentleman's Fine Harness class. Sarah also enjoys her Country Pleasure pony, *Driving Miss Emma*, all under the direction of Matt Schuckert.

Having celebrated 60 years of marriage and 4 great-grandchildren, Sarah and Vern are seeing a fourth generation of American Saddlebred enthusiasts. Sarah has already had a few lead line rides at Oaklane Farm with her eldest great-grandchild, Caroline Smith.



Roy and Judy Werner and Lisa Duncan

## BREEDERS HALL OF FAME AWARD: REDWING FARM (JUDY AND ROY WERNER)

Redwing Saddlebred Farm LLC, owned by Judy and Roy Werner, is located in the rural Southern Illinois town of Waterloo, situated across the Mississippi river from St. Louis, Mo. Owned by the Werner family for over 60 years, the 440 acre farm was transformed from a crop farm to an American Saddlebred breeding farm in the 1980s. Standing at the time, the now deceased stallion *Radiant Sultan*, the farm evolved from a training/breeding facility into what it is today: a full service breeding farm offering year round care for broodmares and their offspring, with the stallion *Designed* heading the farm's breeding program.

Judy and Roy Werner purchased their first broodmare in 1976, which was a natural extension to Judy Werner's lifelong association with the American



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Saddlebred. Hilda and Alvin Ruxer of Ruxer Farms became close friends and an influence on the Redwing Farm breeding program. It was from Ruxers that Redwing Farm purchased the stallion *Radiant Sultan* and the dam of *Designed*, *Sultan's Dianna*. The Ruxer friendship and the mentoring by Ruxer Farm's stallion manager at the time, Bill Caldwell, set the wheels in motion for Redwing Farm to become known for its exceptional livestock, and excellent care of the animals trusted to them.

Judy and Roy are hands-on owners. Roy enters all of the weekly vet records during breeding season, and with Judy's input, he makes the list of mares for the veterinarian to see on breeding days. Judy packages and ships all of the semen for shipping, and in conference with the farm's veterinarian, makes the decision as to when a mare is to be bred, any treatment she might need before or after breeding, and what bloodlines the farm wants to cross with *Designed*. Foaling of the mares is Judy's department, and she is often the one to give the last medication of the evening to a sick animal.



Lisa Duncan and Tony Weldon

## BREEDER OF THE YEAR AWARD: TONY WELDON/CALLAWAY HILLS

Callaway Hills is nearly 70 years old. The farm was established in the 1940s by Betty Goshorn Weldon's parents, and is now owned by the third generation, Lenore "Tony" Weldon.

Its bloodlines began when Betty Weldon purchased her first American Saddlebred, *Fourth Estate* (BHF), in Kentucky, as a yearling in 1944. The mare was later bred to <sup>CH</sup>*Wing Commander*, producing *Callaway's Johnny Gillen* in 1959. Three years after buying *Fourth Estate*, Mrs. Weldon returned to Kentucky to buy her second mare, two year old <sup>CH</sup>*Kate Shriver* (BHF) from George Gwinn in 1947. *Kate* went on to win the 1949 and 1950 Fine Harness World's Grand Championship.

*Callaway's Johnny Gillen* and <sup>CH</sup>*Kate Shriver* proved to be the historic combination that made Callaway Hills what it is today. Their foal, <sup>CH</sup>*Will Shriver*, was born in 1966. After claiming the 1976 Five-Gaited World's Championship with trainer Redd Crabtree, the stallion went on to be one of the greatest sires in the history of the breed.

Mrs. Weldon's 2007 obituary contained statistics from the USEF on the number of World's Champions and Broodmares of World's Champions sired by *Will*. The USEF stated, "To date, Callaway Hills Stables has bred winners of a total of ten World's Grand Championships, which is tied with Dodge Stables/Castleton Farm as the most in the 104 year old history of the Kentucky State Fair World's Championship Horse Show. " If this is accurate, with 2013 World's Champion winner <sup>CH</sup>*Callaway's Annabel Allison*, Callaway Hills Stables is now in the number one position.

*Will* produced a number of notable stallion sons, the most famous being <sup>CH</sup>*Caramac* and *Callaway's Blue Norther*. Both were still alive when Betty Weldon died in 2007. Her daughter, Tony Weldon purchased all of Callaway Hills Stable from her mother's estate in 2008. Tony's goal was to try and keep the farm operating, while continuing to focus on the *Will Shriver* top line that her mother dedicated her life to creating, while maintaining the legacy of producing some of the greatest show horses in the world.

Callaway Hills is now standing its chosen *Blue Norther* sons: *Callaway's Bluesman*, out of *Callaway's Carousel* (BHF), and *Callaway's Cranston*, out of *Sweet Sachet* (BHF). *Caramac* studs include *Callaway's The Gipper*. Callaway Hills still breeds its own mares to *Caramac* and *Blue* via frozen semen; they are expecting close to thirty foals in the spring of 2014.

The reigning World's Five-Gaited Grand Champion <sup>CH</sup>*Callaway's Annabel Allison*, owned, trained and shown by Debbie Foley, is a classic example of decades of the Callaway Hill's breeding program. Sired by <sup>CH</sup>*Caramac*, by <sup>CH</sup>*Will Shriver* by *Callaway's Johnny Gillen*, her dam is *Callaway's Love Lucy* (BHF), out of *Callaway's Lucy Mack* (BHF), who was out of a Callaway owned mare, *Holliday's Miss Hattie* and by <sup>CH</sup>*Will Shriver*.

Tony has lived on the farm, since the 1980s. She currently shares her home with one cat and three dogs. After her mother's passing, Tony also became solely responsible for the no-kill, not for profit Callaway Hills Animal Shelter, founded by her mother, as well as the dozens of retired horses.



R.H. Bennett and Christine Broder

## WING COMMANDER MEDAL: R. H. BENNETT

R.H. Bennett has worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, in promoting the American Saddlebred and American Saddlebred horse shows throughout the country, and serving as the manager of some of the most popular and successful horse shows in our industry. RH founded Richfield Video in 1982, which has served as the official videographer of the Worlds' Championship Horse Show for the past 30 years. Richfield started its live webcasting of horse shows in 2009.

R.H. spent his early years in the horse business working for his brother, Edward R. "Hoppy" Bennett in the early 1970s. In 1976, R.H. moved to Midland, Michigan where he served as the General Manager and Breeding Manager of Leslie Lane Farm, standing such notable American Saddlebred stallions as *Night Prowler*, *New Yorker*, *Grand Slam*, *Handley's Contract*, *Green Acres Commander*, *Eyre Lad*, *Hayfield's Last Guy*, and *High Rank*. The Leslie Lane broodmares included several Hall of Famers such as *High Fashion Sue*, *Hayfield's Starlight*, *Hayfield's Kentucky Maid*, *Holiday's Best Wishes*, *Plainview's Julia*, *Lullaby Baby*, *Grapetree's Kentuckiana*, *Hayfield's American Beauty*, and a host of others. While at Leslie Lane Farms, R.H. also managed broodmares for Mrs. Lyman Phillips, including *Princess Blancheetah*, *Hayfield's Melissa*, and *Hayfield's Melinda*. Upon the closure of Leslie Lane Farm in the early 1980s, R.H. and his wife Leslie moved to Shelbyville, Kentucky and started *Richfield Stud*, which is the current home of *Escalade Stables*, where they stood the stallions *Night Prowler* and *High Rank*.

In 1990, R.H. became the co-founder and manager of the Shelbyville Horse Show. He received the Herman R. Miles Horse Show Manager of the Year award in 1993 and 2003. R.H. has also served as the Manager



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of the Shelby County Fair Horse Show since 1995. The Shelby County Fair originated in 1965, making it one of the longest running county fairs in Kentucky. R.H. and his wife Leslie have three daughters: Vada, who is now 20 years old; Lilly, 18-years-old; and 16-year-old Anna.



ASHA President Tandy Patrick and Nelson Green

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: NELSON GREEN

A Southern Carolinian by birth and a Kentuckian by choice, this year's ASHA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is still at the top of a career marked by an unparalleled work ethic, scrupulous attention to detail and a dedication to quality American Saddlebred horses. Although the son of a Methodist minister, it was apparent very early his pulpit would be a stable. After his first trip to the Lexington Junior League and the Kentucky State Fair, he decided he wanted to compete at this sport's highest level and was willing to make the personal sacrifices to make it happen. He first competed at the World's Championship Horse Show in 1967. Since that time he has trained too many World's Champions to count, although the estimate is in the 150 range.

His first training job was at Cleveland Park Stables in Greenville, South Carolina for \$50 a week. The pay wasn't important he was on his way. His next stop was M.L. Trotter's private stable, Merryland Farm, Columbia, South Carolina. As was the norm of that era, the farm also operated a breeding operation. To head the Trotter's breeding operation, Nelson purchased *Genius Mountain Bourbon*, whose progeny would have a very positive impact on the American Saddlebred industry and his career down the road.

Merrylane was a high-class private operation and offered a lot of security for a young man with a family, but he

knew he would have to move to climb the ladder of success he had set for himself. In 1969 Nelson was hired as Tom and Donna Moore's assistant at Knolland Farm, in Richmond, Illinois, a training operation agreement still unequalled today. There was one catch; Donna told him he would have to lose weight before they could put him on any top horses. So, Nelson lost 100 pounds in less than six months, typical of his determination to succeed. This may sound like a contestant in "The Biggest Loser" today, but actually he was "The Big Winner," as this move catapulted his career to the top of his profession, where it remains today.

After his association with Tom and Donna at Knolland, Grape Tree Farm and Donna Moore Stables, his next stop was at the Campbell Family's Holly Oak Farm in Frankfort, Kentucky. Mr. Campbell did not actually own a farm but allowed his 28-year-old trainer to buy the property for him, sight unseen. There Nelson stood *Status Symbol* and campaigned his get in futurities around the country to place the stallion as the number one Futurity Sire, as well as directing Elizabeth Campbell to World's and National Championships with *Hayfield's Grand Fashion*, *Miss Roz*, *Royal Flush*, *Sultan's Sabrina* and *Fleet Victory*.

In 1976, Nelson began a 12 year tenure at the Hutcheson's famed Happy Valley Farm in Rossville, Georgia. At the time, one of the largest operations in the country, consisting of a major breeding operation and a public training stable coupled with, as most who have worked there will confirm, many hay fields to work in the afternoons! Backed by a band of blue hen broodmares, Nelson and The Valley supported and participated at local Tennessee and Southeastern Futurities, as well on ASHA National/Kentucky programs. World's Champions such as *CH That Special Flavor*, *Denmark's Radiant Society (BHF)*, *CH Enlightening*, *CH Spartan's Moon Charm*, *CH More The Merrier*, *CH El Presidente*, *CH In Reality*, *CH Net Worth*, *CH Blue Chipper*, *CH A Rich Girl*, *Merchant Prince* (grandson of *Merrylane's Genius Mountain Bourbon* and sire of future Nelson Green Stables stars) were developed there.

In 1988, health issues forced Nelson to re-evaluate his life. In May, Josie Forbes received a liver transplant and within weeks of her hospital release a not quite 43-year-old Nelson had a major heart attack and triple bypass surgery. After a winter's recovery, Nelson and Josie headed to Kentucky with five training horses to a two-room apartment and rented stalls. Once again his life took a new direction, and it wasn't long before champion after champion was presented from his characteristic "attention to the last

detail" 21-stall barn in Nicholasville. It has been said Nelson operated his farm like a boutique, not a department store and had the niche to take an expensive horse and make it more expensive.

World's Champions such as *CH The Radiant Prince*, *Lextown*, *CH Swept Away*, *CH Winterfest*, *CH Trust Worthy*, *CH Mr. Snuffleupagus*, *CH Peppermint Sonburst*, *CH With Authority*, *CH A Sweet Treat*, *Boutonniere*, *A Daydream Believer (BHF)*, *CH Walterway's Remember Me*, *CH Absolutely Fabulous*, *CH Winter Day*, *CH Gypsy Supreme*, *CH Carolina Cat*, *CH The Great Gaspar*, *CH Victoria Lynn*, *CH Gracie Mansion*, *CH Ninety-Eight Degrees*, *CH Brookhill's King of Kool*, *CH Tigerlee*, *CH Radiant Success*, *I'm First*, *Memorize*, *CH Nurse Goodbody*, and *CH Callaway's Born For This* literally dominated their divisions.

With the sale of his farm three years ago, it seemed the time in life to finally slow down and Nelson moved a scaled down operation down the road to Blue Willow Farm. However, Nelson's career once again did not lose steam but merely changed directions. Nelson was far from done with his passion for training top American Saddlebred horses. Show ring superstars *CH His Supreme Reflection*, *Zensation*, *Ethereal Love*, *St Nick EGF*, *Jessica Manzo*, *HS Daydream's Celebrity*, and *Trust My Imagination* have emerged from the Blue Willow location. This winter you will find him up at 6 AM to feed broodmares then at the barn, racking colts and readying a top show string in the country for 2014.

Over his career, Nelson has not only trained horses, but much like Thoroughbred's D. Wayne Lukas, he also trained people. Many of today's top young professionals began their careers under Nelson. Most will profess it was the hardest they ever worked in their lives while Nelson instilled upon them the same work ethic and dedication to the care of the horse that is his trademark (and no matter what else is going on in your life, you get up and go to the barn...the horse comes first). While Nelson takes a great deal of pride and interest in their successes, you can bet when the gate opens, he will be there trying to beat them to the winner's circle!

Nelson Green is the consummate horseman the chubby boy left South Carolina over 45 years ago to become. He has trained World's Champions in every division from the open to roadster to in-hand to eight and under equitation. He won the Fine Harness World's Grand Championship five consecutive years. He has set standards being the first to win the World's Champion two-year-old old riding and driving divisions with the same horse and winning all the major



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three-year-old divisions in the same year. He has helped developed breeding stallions, caught colts in the field and put them in Freedom Hall's spotlight, taught children and amateurs to ride and drive, all the while telling them (and his employees) "only degrees separate winners from the pack and you must be dedicated (willing to work) to achieve your dreams."

In 2004, Nelson was inducted in the World's Championship Horse Show Hall of Fame and in 2006 was UPHA's Horseperson of the Year. When Nelson learned he was this year's ASHA

Lifetime Achievement recipient his humble response was that many of his peers have been equally successful. However, few had a career as large in scope as Nelson's. Who else has served their breed by judging every major horse show and equitation final many times, is a founding member of UPHA, given their time hosting clinics and youth open houses, serving on Kentucky State Fair and Lexington Junior League Horse Show Advisory Boards, serving on the USEF American Saddlebred committee, and as an ASHA Board Member for seven years

while actively participating on numerous committees and even dressed in period costume for the 2010 World Equestrian Games Opening Ceremonies?

The American Saddlebred industry has been Nelson's avocation and his vocation. His influence on the breed stretches far beyond the horses and people he's trained. His dedication to the industry will be felt in our future. He has cared about our horse and characteristically, was willing to work to improve it.

## GALA PHOTOS



Alex Rudder and Sallie Mason Wheeler



Bill Marple, Sherry Frankel, and Chuck Herbert



Bill Whitley, Melissa Moore, and Kent Moeller



Joan Lurie, Jackie Manzo, and Gail Kline



Nelson Green



Carol Reedy, Nancy Troutman, Smith Lily, and Janet Sterba



# LOOKING FORWARD



Andrea Steponaitis, Marcus, Jessica, and Jackie Manzo, and Julie Kaufman



Foster Roberts and Paige Schanke



Fred Sarver, Smith Lily, Elisabeth LeBris, and Tom Erffmeyer



Karen and Fred Sarver with Judy Werner



Kenny Wheeler and Debbie Foley



Melinda Moore, Megan Thibo, Melissa Moore, Sharon Backer, Joellen Fisher Blount, Cathy Coniglio, & Danette Musselman



Meredithe Steinhauer, Gail Kline, R.H. Bennett, and Scarlett Mattson



Winter, Dr. Scott, Scotty, & Annika Bruggeworth with Melinda Moore



Sarah Russell and Michelle Partridge



Tyler Parker and Nelson Green



ASHA President Tandy Patrick commented, "This year's Convention gave us the opportunity to have candid discussions on some tough issues facing our industry today, and to brainstorm on solutions to the problems we're facing. The ASHA Board has agreed to rethink the format, content and location of our annual convention; we intend to make some dramatic changes for the better for our meetings at the Savannah (GA) Riverfront Hotel, January 15-17, 2015, which is the same date and location as the 2015 UPHA Convention."



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