

The Women In Our Industry HONOR ROLL

This theme, now in year seven celebrates the enormous, indeed disproportionate, influence women have on our industry.

We recognize that the Morgan community, throughout its history, has not merely provided acceptance. Rather women have proven that they are more than equal in the areas of vision, direction, accomplishment, and utilization of the breed.

The Morgan industry has not been male-centric. Women have been leaders, mentors, educators, innovators, adjudicators, pioneers, counselors, and advocates.

The staff of *The Morgan Horse* has, for the sixth year, searched our archives, asked our advisors and brainstormed in meetings to generate a long list and then the short list that appears here. The Honor Roll is never intended to be complete. We will add names to it annually. We strive, in one issue each year, to be sure the list is as varied, diverse, and colorful as the breed itself.

For the sixth year we have invited nominations from the floor, so to speak. Through communication with the AMHA membership, via email, our website, and Facebook, we have invited the public to nominate one person to the list. That nominee appears as the final honoree on the 2015 Honor Roll.

Ladies, you continue to inspire us.

Beverley Olson EYE FOR A CHAMPION

1945 was the year that Franklin Roosevelt was sworn in for an unprecedented and unequalled fourth term as President of the United States. It was also the year a 14-year-old girl from the Midwest bought her first registered Morgan horse, a yearling filly named Red Feather.

Beverley Olson kept Red Feather until after she became married and her husband needed to finish college. Being an astute business person even at that age, Beverley sold her beloved mare but retained a foal, which she then exercised after her husband finished college.

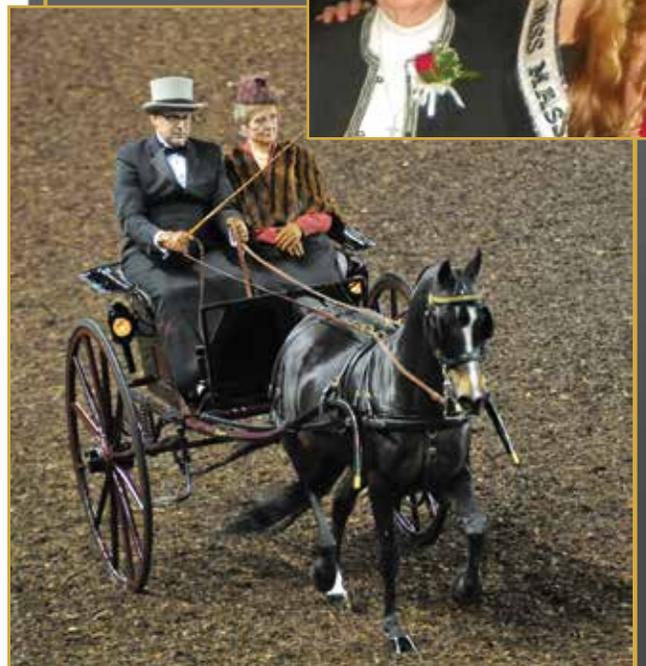
That foal, and the young married couple, packed up their belongings and moved to Washington in 1952 to raise their family and continued what has been a more than 65 year love affair with Morgan horses.

The entire family got involved with riding, training, showing, and eventually breeding Morgan horses. With this came the family's homebred stallion, Flight Commander, the product of a Funquest bred stallion to a Morgan mare from the Chilloco Indian school in the Midwest, whom the Olsons brought with them in their move from the Midwest. That stallion went on to produce more than 100 foals, a sizable number prior to the days of shipped semen.

After about 30 years in the Morgan breed, the Olsons registered the Shiloh prefix and had several foals under this name.

As life continued, Beverley had many horses along the way. Always having a soft spot for a pretty headed mare, Beverley spotted a two-year-

Beverley receiving her 2010 induction into the AMHA Hall Of Fame (right) and (bottom) with Daryl Hopson and Tracemark Touch Of Gold. (Bottom photo © Howard Schatzberg)





Terry Jones Brennan with Peggy Alderman (top) and (bottom) Roy El's Amadeus in 1992. (Bottom photo © Howard Schatzberg)

old filly by Pot Of Gold. She purchased the pretty filly named Tracemark Touch Of Gold. Beverley drove the pretty mare herself for many years before turning over the reins to begin a new career as a Western pleasure horse. Beverley's beloved "Gabrielle" would go on to be crowned World Champion Western Pleasure horse in 2011.

Finding a new interest in the carriage world, Gabrielle and Beverley alongside trainer Daryl Hopson have garnered a reserve world carriage title and are the current Salute to America Grand National Champions.

Beverley currently maintains a small string of horses, some retirees and some young prospects with an eye for a pretty horse and the knowledge to assess six generations of Morgan pedigree—it's been more than 65 wonderful years for a dedicated Morgan horse lover. We salute Beverley for doing what she loves and loving what she does. A very big congratulations on this recognition so very much deserved.

Daryl Hopson, Trafalgar

→ *Terry Jones Brennan* **MASTERFUL RIDER, AUTHORITATIVE JUDGE**

I first met Terry Jones in the early '70s in Coopersburg, Pennsylvania when she was working for Mike Goebig and I was working some shows for Mike. She was a nice girl, but a little reserved as she stayed home instead of hitting the bars with "Tim O" (O'Gorman) and me. She was organized and mature and we weren't. Terry eventually moved back to the West Coast, where she worked horses at her Mom's and also worked full time as a clothing buyer in San Francisco. She also found time to get married and have children.

Fast forward 20 years and I signed on to judge a show with Terry in Shelbyville, Tennessee. I hadn't really spoken with her since the Coopersburg days except for a quick hello at Grand National in Oklahoma. When we met up in Shelbyville, we had the best time together. We had been married about the same length of time, our kids were the same age, and we were even reading the same book! We went for Bar-B-Que and visited a local Walking Horse stable where the trainer invited us to ride one of his horses. We were both wearing skirts, so we had to pass. Best of all, I got to watch Terry judge. I had always considered her a good judge, but working with her made me realize she is a great judge. She brings her "A game" to every class and is certainly the most professional of any judge I have worked with.

The great thing about Terry is she has worked all types of horses and appreciates a good park horse as well as a good carriage horse and everything in between. She helped Doris Ryan work and put Beamington in the ring at the first Grand National in Detroit (1973) where he was World Park Harness Champion. She campaigned the finest hunter in the land when she owned Roy-El's Amadeus. He was the hunter of his era and won the Open, Ladies, and Amateur World Championships at one Grand National in 1992. In 2003 she showed another great one as Maximum Effort won the Open and Ladies Classic Pleasure Saddle Championships.

Terry comes by all this talent honestly, as her mom, Gloria Jones, was a giant in our industry. She chaired Morgan Grand National several times, and literally wrote the manual on how to run the show. Gloria also championed the classic pleasure division, literally traveling the country to drum up support. Most importantly, of course, she had Terry!

Peggy Alderman, Salem Farm

Anne Wyland A COLORFUL LEADER

I first met Anne Wyland online, and then in person at the 2000 AMHA Convention in Atlanta. I marveled then, as I continue to do, at the sheer amount of energy and enthusiasm she exudes. These traits come in handy as she pretty much singlehandedly runs her Ancan Morgans, located on ten acres in Davison Michigan, with some assistance from the “barn girls” she has recruited over the years and her husband, Rob. Anne’s herd generally consists of more than 25 Morgan horses at any given time, and when you consider what all else this remarkable woman accomplishes daily—which includes raising her five-year-old grand-daughter, Sophie—you can’t help but be amazed.

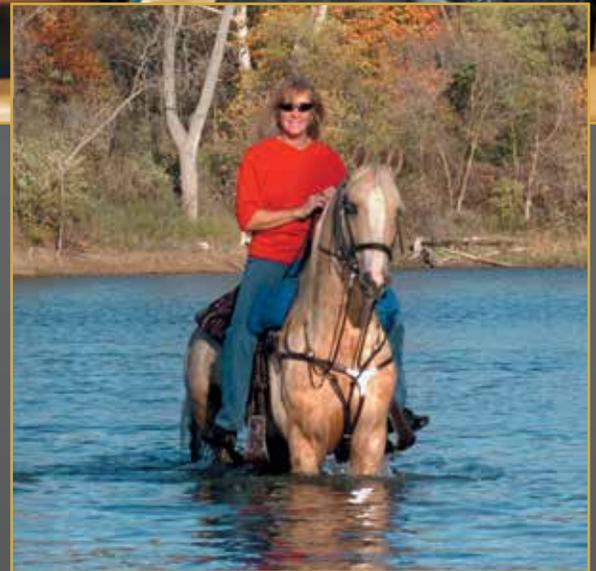
As a youngster Anne rode ponies and showed in 4-H until being introduced to the Morgan breed in 1979 with the purchase of Pinehaven Suprem from the legendary Pinehaven Morgan farm in Saginaw, Michigan. The first Ancan prefixed foal arrived in 1992 and there have been nearly 100 registered since. In 1996 Anne inadvertently ventured into colorful Morgans when she bought the brown buckskin mare, Aquila’s Miss Bee Haven, who was registered as, and thought to be, a bay. Of Bee’s nine offspring, all but two were colorfults, and today her son, the palomino Ancan True Colors (“Blitz”), is senior stallion at Ancan with an enviable record of producing quality, excellent dispositions, and color.

With a breeding program founded on the bloodlines of Waseeka’s Nocturne and Upwey Ben Don, the Ancan Morgans are pretty, typey, and have excellent dispositions. Anne feels that good hocks and correct hind end movement are important and something that we don’t see enough of in the breed, so that is a trait she values in her breeding stock. While she has shown her Morgans very successfully, Anne’s true love is trail riding. And the Ancan Morgans are the fanciest horses on the trails—with Anne on her stallion, Blitz, leading the way!

Anne shares her love of Morgans in many ways, bringing new people into the breed. She places a special emphasis on encouraging young people, several of whom work on her farm and have purchased a Morgan from Anne. She gives presentations on Morgans at local schools, and many 4-H and Girl Scout groups have visited Ancan Morgans over the years. Anne has hosted a regular open barn event at her farm, inviting the public in to learn more about Morgans.

Anne also works hard in support of various endeavors within the breed. For many years she organized and published the Fall Morgan Showcase, an advertising magazine that was distributed free at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show®, as well as being mailed to any interested parties. She was the newsletter editor for the Michigan Justin Morgan Horse Association for four-and-a-half years, was on the show committee for their All Breed Open Fun Show for five years, and hosts trail rides for the club. She has rescued and rehabbed Morgans and helped people in desperate situations find new homes for their Morgans. A long-time member of Rainbow Morgan Horse Association, Anne currently serves on their board of directors. Her enthusiastic online promotion of Rainbow and its various projects has helped to draw in new members, a valuable asset in a time when many clubs are suffering from dwindling numbers and lack of participation. The Morgan breed is fortunate indeed to have Anne Wyland in its cheering section!

Laura Hornick Behning, Brookridge Morgans



Anne Wyland (top) and with her stylish trail horse, the stallion Ancan True Colors (bottom).



Kathy Newcomb, 2012 AMHA Woman Of The Year (top) and (left) with her carriage driving Morgan Jubal Ashmore.



Dorothy and Charles White driving Wind Crest Showgirl and Windcrest Benn Beau at 1967 World's Fair in Montreal, Canada (right), and showing Windcrest Benn Beau in Ladies Park Harness. (bottom).



Kathy Newcomb COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Kathy Newcomb, a woman with many hats, is definitely worthy of being included in the Women In Our Industry Honor Roll. Kathy grew up in Vermont and had the distinct opportunity of being introduced to the Morgan breed through Dana Wingate Kelly. She is one of the few that can claim to have ridden Royalton Ashbrook Darling and to have driven Royalton Elnora. Kathy spent many hours after school and on weekends working for Mr. Kelly and grew to love the Morgan horse. As time passed, she moved around through New York and finally settled with her late husband Stu and her son Ian in New Jersey where Blythewood Farm was established in the mid 1990s. Kathy became a respected carriage driver and competed heavily in the circuit on the East Coast. Her special driving horse that has brought her so much pleasure over the years, Jubal Ashmore, is nearing 30 years of age and is still ridden by granddaughter Abigail Newcomb on their Virginia farm. Kathy has raised Morgans primarily for sport; Blythewood is a prefix well known in the carriage driving world. For years Kathy worked for various medical/pharmaceutical companies where she honed her editorial/proofreading skills. During her tenure as Region 2 Director, Kathy could be counted on to be an active participant and we always knew we could ask her to help format and proofread documents. In 2012 Kathy was selected as the AMHA Woman of the Year. Kathy served as the chair of Registry for AMHA for a number of years and now is still called upon to lend a hand as a Director Emeritus. Congratulations Kathy for an honor well deserved and we hope to see you driving again soon!

Linnea Sidi, Meadowlark Morgans

Dorothy White ELEGANCE IN HORSEMANSHIP

If ever anyone defined show ring sophistication and elegance, it was Dorothy Simpson White.

Serendipity played a huge role in Dot's love of Morgan horses as her association with Dr. Robert Orcutt of Burkland Farm catapulted her into the limelight of center ring celebrity. However, it was Dot and Windcrest Benn Beau, the charismatic son of Upwey Ben Don, who personified the versatility of the great gelding and the woman who loved him. For years they ruled! In park harness classes, in Cavalcade Americana where they exemplified the elegance of a time gone by, and in exhibitions throughout the Northeast and into Canada, Dot and Benn Beau (often teamed as a pair with his sister, the equally gorgeous Wind Crest Showgirl) garnered friends and fans for the Morgan breed.

A "dollhouse" barn at her home overlooking the Piscataqua River further increased her dedication to the breed and Bayview Morgans was born. Dot's intuitive sense of what she loved about Morgans, as well as the wisdom of Dr. Bob, guided her in her breeding decisions and Bayview Stormy Night and Bayview Starlight were two of her favorites. Dot shared her love of Morgans with her son Jeff and the family soon outgrew their barn at home. With the purchase of the farm at Green Acres, Dot became owner, manager, and promoter of a first class stable. Over the years, trainers at the farm included Gerry Nelson, Kathryn Schwartz, and Judy

Nason along with a growing lesson program that gave youngsters an up close experience with Morgan horses. An astute business woman, Dot also was a hands on horsewoman who cleaned stalls, polished tack and groomed horses on a daily basis (who else could wear white pants while blacking hooves and not end up with a speck on them?).

Dot White was the essence of a talented horsewoman, stylish competitor, gracious hostess, and promoter of all things Morgan. She was involved in starting the Granite State Morgan Horse Association, active in the New England Morgan Horse Association, and competed at local, regional, and national Morgan shows (including the first Grand National in Detroit), as well as trail riding throughout New England, organizing clinics, and always sharing her love of the great Morgan horse. Her welcoming smile and twinkling eyes made her a natural teacher and educator of her favorite breed.

Her legacy lives on through Jeff and his family whose own home and barn are just minutes from where Bayview Morgans began all those years ago.

Dorothy Simpson White. Dot to those of us who loved and admired her. The beauty of her gift to the Morgan world is everlasting.

Susan Colleton

Mona Sansoucy **WHERE DRESSAGE MET THE MORGAN**

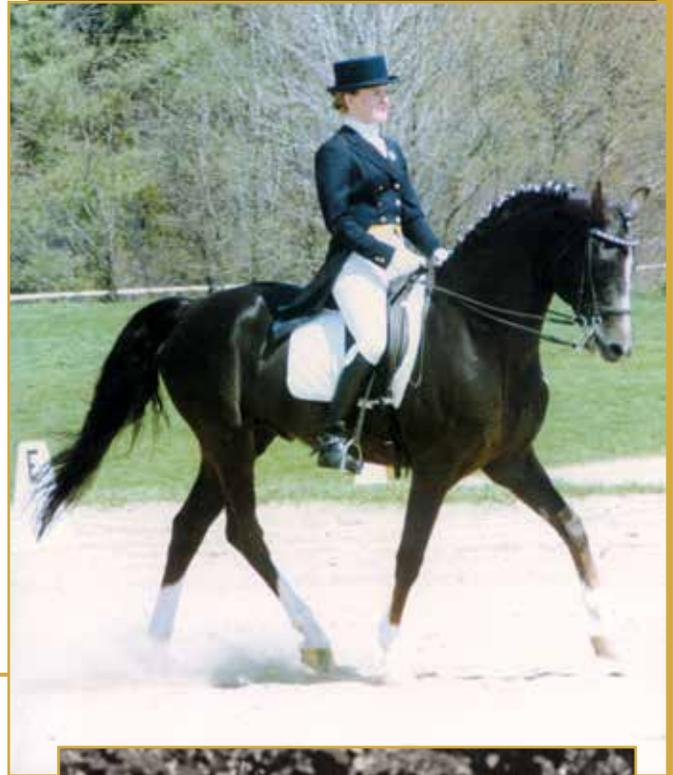
Although many individuals have capably trained and exhibited Morgans in dressage, one woman stands out. In the 1980s Mona Sansoucy showed the dressage community that Morgans could compete at the highest level, and she demonstrated to the Morgan show world that dressage could be an exciting discipline.

Until Sansoucy changed their attitudes, Morgan exhibitors and trainers frequently considered dressage to be a boring sport with horse after horse doing the same low-level tests. However, when Sansoucy and her Big Bend Doc Davis performed exhibitions at all-Morgan shows in New England, the Morgan show world saw something wonderful. With every footfall precisely timed to music, the pair's demonstration of 20-meter circles with flying changes at every stride, canter pirouettes, and huge extensions brought cheering spectators to their feet.

Sansoucy has said she was a "typical horse-crazy kid," but there was nothing typical about her talent, ambition, and determination to be the best rider possible. She worked hard at her lessons and as a young teenager convinced her parents that she was ready for a Morgan of her own. They bought "Davey" for her in 1975, when he was just a yearling. Young Mona was an insatiable student who took lessons from experts when she could, but she also read everything she could find about dressage training and spent every possible hour at the barn, patiently working and learning, always striving to overcome every setback.

She had much success through the levels, and her years of effort paid off big time as Sansoucy took second place in her first Grand Prix test in a very large class on her talented Morgan, the only American-bred horse at the entire show.

After retiring Davey in a memorable exhibition at the 1991 New England Morgan Horse Show, Sansoucy continued training and showing other Morgans successfully in open dressage competition until family obligations ended her show career. However, she has continued in dressage as an instructor, and she promotes Morgans at every opportunity.



Mona Sansoucy and Big Bend Doc Davis (top and bottom).
(Photos © Carole MacDonald)



This high achieving horsewoman has inspired countless riders to spend the time and effort necessary to train and show their Morgans in open competition. Because of her efforts they know that they don't need to buy an expensive Warmblood from Europe, because Mona Sansoucy and has paved the way, proving that a Morgan can go all the way to the top.

Karin Weight, West Mountain Morgan Farm

Cindy Mugnier LEADER OF THE PACK

It is hard to know where to start when honoring Cindy Mugnier. She is so accomplished in so many areas of not only the Morgan world, but the equine world in general. She is a professional horsewoman, judge, instructor, coach of the World Cup team, past president of AMHA and active board member, Chairman of the USEF Saddle Seat committee, head of the Morgan judging program, show chairman, university equine business professor, trainer, and mentor to many. She has produced World Champion Morgans in many divisions and coached riders to world titles. And now, after a few years of cheering on her nephew, Nick Roberts, has made a very successful return to the show ring competing with her new English pleasure horse. And she does all this before breakfast!

Cindy is one of the most active and successful women in the horse industry. She gives tirelessly of her time and extensive knowledge. Whether flying cross country to give a clinic or judging a horse show, to early morning lessons, she is a consummate professional. She keeps a schedule that would make a marathon runner weep, constantly moving from one project to the next with unruffled efficiency.

All of her accolades are impressive but the most important thing that can be said of Cindy is that she has an indomitable spirit, a huge heart, a generous nature, and a killer sense of humor. Her friends number in the hundreds and she is highly respected by her peers. I don't know of anyone more deserving to be inducted into the Women's Honor Roll. Her family, friends, and associates congratulate Cindy for not only this honor but for being the person we all love. You are the best!

Larry Bolen, Cedar Creek Farm



Cindy Mugnier (above) and (left) with student Mattie Francis Willard and Roadshow Step-in' Out GCH. (Left photo © Howard Schatzberg)



Ruth Towne with Mike Goebig and Vermont Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing, Bruce Hyde, at AMHA headquarters in 2006 (right) and showing at "The Nationals" 1974 (below). (Bottom photo © Freudy)

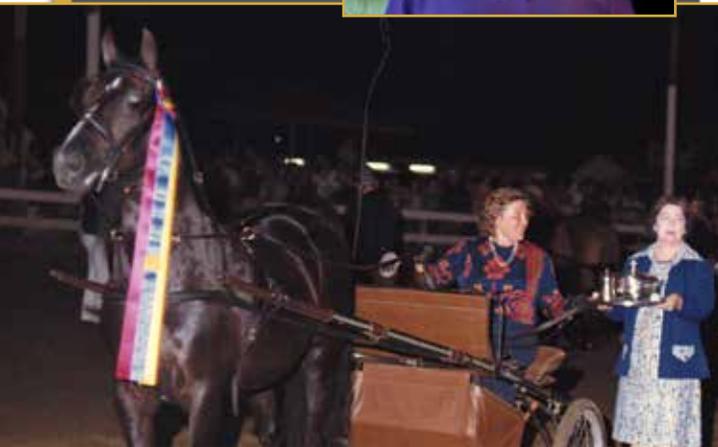
Ruth Towne PRESERVING A HERITAGE

Morgan horse world lost one of its greatest benefactors in May, 2007. Her funeral was conducted at the Statehouse in Montpelier where she was one of the most influential legislators.

Her longtime friendship with Deane Davis helped in getting the Morgan horse designated as the Vermont State Animal during Governor Davis' reign as governor.

When Kentucky became a focus for potential breed headquarters, a group of Vermonters formed the Morgan Horse Heritage Foundation to preserve the breed in the state. Ruth Towne became the first president and, with her influence, Governor Tim Douglas directed his Director of Tourism to support MHHF in its efforts.

Over the years Ruth Towne developed the Town-Ayr family of Morgan horses. Consistent winners for new owners, they brought Ruth herself to the show rings. Her most coveted wins included the Amateur Pleasure Driving Championship at the first Grand National in Detroit



with Soliloque Coachman and her win of the Robert Lippitt Knight Trophy in the Justin Morgan Performance competition at the National Morgan Show in Northampton with Towne-Ayr Carillion.

To Ruth Towne must go much credit for our state animal and the continued foundation of the breed in Vermont.

Marilyn Childs

Kathleen Peeples SETTING STANDARDS

If you have been or are currently involved with Morgan horses, especially in the Mid-Atlantic region, there is a woman you have heard of and probably had some sort of interaction with. A woman who has dedicated most of her life to the Morgan horse and the people who love it—Kathy Peeples.

Kathy's lifelong involvement with the Morgan horse has touched each and every aspect of the industry. From a world-class competitor in her youth she became an equine professional without compare. Teaching, training, breeding, showing, judging, and promoting the Morgan horse—she has done it all. As an instructor she has taught countless lessons to people of all ages and abilities. Whether these students wanted to achieve show ring success or just develop their skills and appreciation for equestrian sports each of them benefited from her patience, dedication, and abilities. Her students have become world champion competitors, equine professionals, and influential supporters of the breed.

As a trainers and breeders Kathy and Lynn Peeples have teamed up to make their Waterford Farm a producer of world champion horses for decades. Regardless of the age or the discipline, horses bred and shown by Waterford have consistently portrayed the best attributes of the Morgan horse.

Kathy helped set the standard for the Morgan hunter pleasure horse and continues to be at the top of the division creating a legacy few will ever match. Her honesty and integrity make her a very popular judge and allow her to continue to influence the breed through that as well.

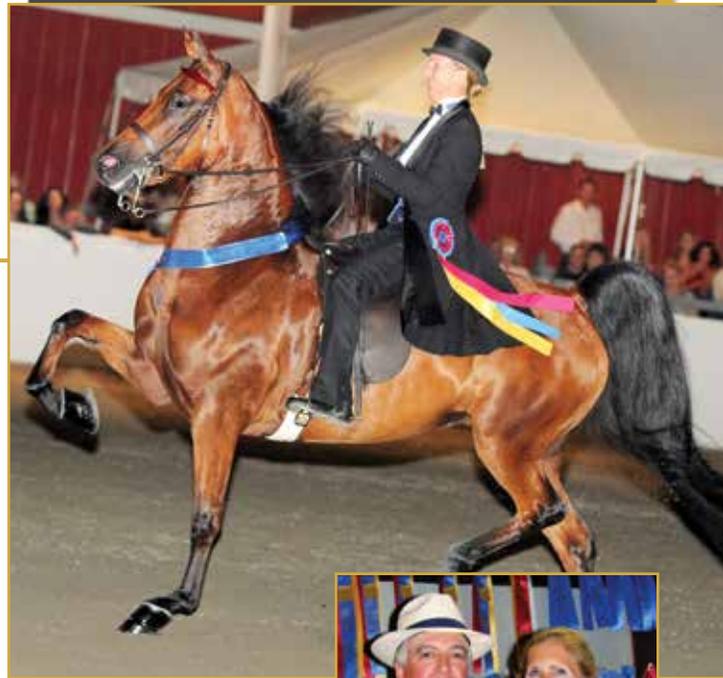
But to me, Kathy's most important contributions to the Morgan horse come from her interactions with people. Not only has she helped raise a beautiful, talented daughter, she has helped so many others in our industry. A helping hand in a time of need, a word of advice or encouragement, a shoulder to cry on or praise for a job well done, Kathy has always been there. Her understanding and devotion to the people has been as influential as her work with the horses.

As we make our way through life it is inevitable that we will meet people who will inspire and motivate us. We meet people who show us who we want to be and help define what we want to accomplish in our lives. They are our heroes, mentors, idols, peers and, if we are lucky enough, they are our friends. One of those very special people decided to dedicate her life to the Morgan breed. Thank you Kathy!

Amanda DuPont

Mona Skager CLASS ACT

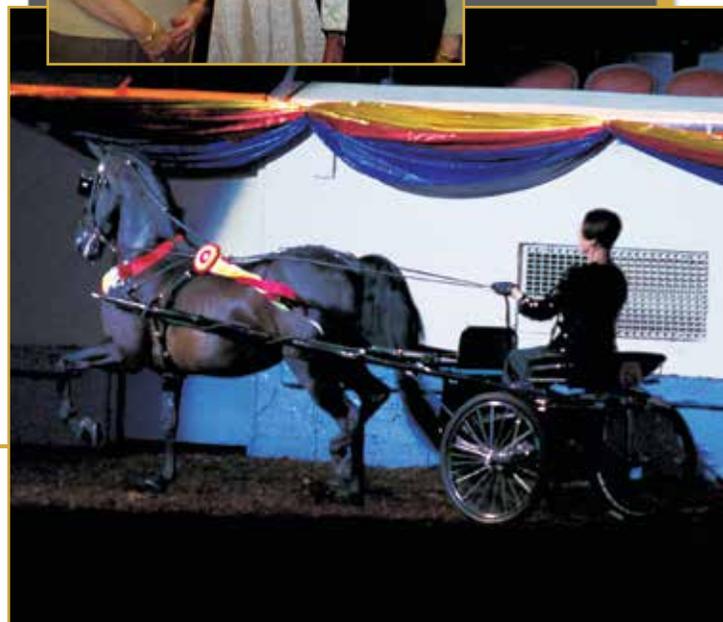
We are so happy that Mona is being honored. She has been a part of the West Coast Morgan scene for a long time. Showing or not, Mona is at her home regional, the Morgan



Kathleen Peeples with City Kitty GCH (above) and with husband Lynn (right).
(Photos © Andy Illes, Abbie Trexler)



Mona Skager and Miss Voodoo (below) and with Linda Hall (left).
(Bottom photo © Philip Green)





Medallion in California, and the Grand National every year watching, cheering, and supporting the breed. She led the show committee for many years at the Morgan Classic Royale, and has also served on the Grand National show committee. She's always one to jump in and help a show committee out with any detail. With her experiences from movie making (she was part of the production team of many of Francis Ford Coppola's films, including *The Godfather* and *Apocalypse Now*) to her gourmet chef classes in Europe, Mona does everything she does well and with gusto!

Mona is someone who supports our breed with passion and with her actions. She's always there to watch and congratulate her friends, always eager to show, and excited about the future. Mona is a stellar example of someone who truly loves this breed and the Morgan show world. She set a standard of style in the classic pleasure division with the feminine Miss Voodoo, one of Tug Hill Whamunion's most titled get. Miss Voodoo is being bred this year, and Mona is eagerly awaiting a foal in 2016. We can't wait to find her next Morgan partner and get her back to doing what she loves, showing a Morgan horse. Mona, you define style and class and dedication. Congratulations on your nomination to this impressive list.

Stacy Hennessy

Diane Conrady at the reins of the late SpiceOLife Present Tense GCH (above) and (right) receiving AMHA's Golden Reins from Carol Fletcher. (Photos © Howard Schatzberg, Steven Handy)



Diane Conrady STAYING THE COURSE

My favorite personal Diane Conrady story was at the Illinois State Fair. I was maybe nine or ten years old and I was hand walking a horse after a class in the old pony aisles at the fairgrounds while mom and dad were showing another. Well, that night the fireworks went off earlier than expected and this normally calm horse was starting to take me for a ride when Diane comes around the corner and saves the day and takes over the horse for me. She may not remember this story but I sure do.

Diane has been a force to be reckoned with in the horse business as long as I can remember. From when I can first recall being at shows she had horses like Brentwood Lady Magic, Brentwood Bacardi, Arboria Satori, and Arboria Noble Victor. If you could beat Diane you had really accomplished something. Both my brother Whitney and myself have been fortunate to have been asked to catch ride, drive, or lead horses for Diane over the years. Diane has lasted the test of time having won world titles everywhere she's been and turning out nice horses year after year. When I think of Diane's training I think methodical is a good word to use. She has a way and an order she likes to prepare her horses for work and show and she's going to do it her way. Also the word loyalty comes to mind. She is very loyal to her horses and believes in them wholeheartedly. She is also very loyal to her clients as many have been with her for decades. She stayed the course with SpiceOLife Present Tense GCH and her belief in this mighty horse was finally rewarded last October in winning the World Park Harness Championship. The atmosphere at Oklahoma was emotional that Friday night when this classy Morgan horse with his light in the bridle frame and text book movement achieved Diane's dream for him. It was a great night for Diane and it was a great night for the breed.

Mark Bodnar

PAST INDUCTEES

2009: Marilyn Childs • Martha V. Dupont • Anna Ela & Ruth Orcutt • Betty Greene • Helen Greenwalt • Anita Hoitsma • Gloria Jones • Frances Pugh • Sid Spencer • Pat Tataronis Orcutt • Mary Jean Vasiloff • Judy Whitney Harris • Mary Woolverton **2010:** Beth Benard • Chris Cassenti • Simy Corbin • Nancy Eidam • Travis Filipek • Susan, Ling and Iann Fu • Margaret Gardiner • Georgie Green • Elberta Honstein • Jeanne Mellin Herrick • Carol Simpson • Jane Steffenhagen **2011:** Peggy Alderman • Barbara Beaumont Cole • Debbie Beth Halachmy • Bobbi Blankenship • Angela Conner Bulmer • Elaine Galatz • Barbara Irvine • Jennifer McFall • Cindy Nord • Elizabeth Power • Lynne Shpak • Bonnie Sogoloff **2012:** Laura Behning • Mary Cockriel • Frieda Datte Waer • Ellen DiBella • Ann Hailey • Carol Hudson • Maretta Kennedy • Suzy Lucine • Karen Myers • Judy Nason • Crescent Peirce • Polly Quinn • Barb Rudicel • Lisa Singer **2013:** Renee Page • Susan Hanley • Cheri Barber • Nancy Plimpton • Joan Bowers • Ann Anderson • Anne Mears • Ann Taylor • Suzy Stafford • Josette Conti • Jane Elliot **2014:** Jo Johnson • Heidi Kunkel • Sherry Cole • Carol Potts • Muriel Burnheimer • Shelly Temple • Helen Crawford • Brenda Tippin • Joyce Metters • June Brockett Wright • Mary Carlton • Paulette Bodnar



Colleen Saint Loup carriage driving and jumping with the repurposed, now 24-year-old, SpringMill Aire Apparent; and with her daughters, Chloe and Emelia, during a demonstration at Circle J Regional. (Photos © Howard Schatzberg, Casey McBride)

CHOSEN BY OUR READERS

Colleen Bernaby Saint Loup A VOICE FOR MORGANS AT RISK

Every year we reach out to our readers through the magazine's Facebook page. This year Holly Butterman posted a thoughtful nomination for Colleen Saint Loup, which received a bounty of support through posts from others. Colleen's work rescuing, repurposing, and rehoming Morgans at risk, however unassuming she may be about it, has made her the voice of common sense and good will at a difficult moment in the life of many Morgan horses.

According to Colleen's dad, she began riding Morgans at Orcland Farm at age seven. She went on to be an assistant trainer to Richard Boulé, Dr. Bob Orcutt, Judy Nason, John McDonald, and other New England notables in the following years. Colleen took time off from Morgans to marry, have two beautiful daughters, and a successful graphic design career. Three years ago, the family moved to Texas and Colleen began her own training business with two Morgans adopted directly from the kill pen. She never doubted that these discarded Morgans could be useful again. Useful turned out to be an underestimation: Colleen's girls, Emilia and Chloe, have successfully shown these two rescues at Grand National for the last three years. Colleen's faith in the ability of the Morgan heart to recover became the rally cry of Morgan Safenet Foundation Inc. (MSN), a breed organization she founded with two friends, that is dedicated to optimizing the existing Morgan population through recovery, retraining, and rehoming horses as risk.

Colleen's work seems to truly never be done. After a weekend of riding lessons, training, barn chores, and a family to care for, Colleen has on her MSN hat and is closing the loop on the weekend's activity. There are recovered horses from the specialty sale on Friday, the pre-buys from the upcoming Monday New Holland auction, and responding to the MSN email, which is filled with requests for private placement, owner surrenders, Craigslist postings, and information on Morgans at risk from her networks across the country. All of these contacts are an opportunity to make the whole difference for one Morgan, and responding to each inquiry is a responsibility Colleen takes very seriously. Although she would tell you that MSN is far from a one woman show and that is true—those of us who work with her would tell you that she is the “lead by example” leader who inspires not only us, but also a growing band of donors, fosters, and adopters.

Colleen has really never taken that hat off in the year and a half since MSN was founded. As Holly put it in her nomination of Colleen on *The Morgan Horse* magazine's Facebook page, “She is an amazing spirit and advocate for the ones who cannot speak for themselves. She works endlessly, diligently, and very successfully to give these horses the chance they need, even if it is to die with dignity and not on the floors of the horrible kill pens she visits.”

Early on, Colleen realized that she needed to go to the ugly places and understand the process to better help the Morgans. Always connecting and always learning, it was at these auctions that Colleen realized that more could be done than just recovering Morgans from the end of the line. That was the beginning of Direct Amish Sales. It was here that she began to form relationships within the Amish community, working to keep our Morgans from going to auction in the first place.

Far from being uncaring owners, the Amish are horsemen caught in the closed circle of their culture. When you bring a Morgan that can't do the road work to a sale where only other Amish go to look for road horses, the only other buyers present are kill buyers. Colleen realized that if she could provide a way to be their sales and promotion arm, the Amish could market these horses to the whole Morgan community. With her promotion of the program at the Grand National, Mid-A, and Buckeye sale, the program is growing every week.

Colleen never bred a Morgan but as of today 125 Morgans are alive and 24 have been reunited with their identities because of her faith in the worth of every Morgan. ■

Lisa Isaacson & Vicki Bennett