

LEADERS INNOVATORS
ADVOCATES
~ 2014 ~

The Women In Our Industry HONOR ROLL

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

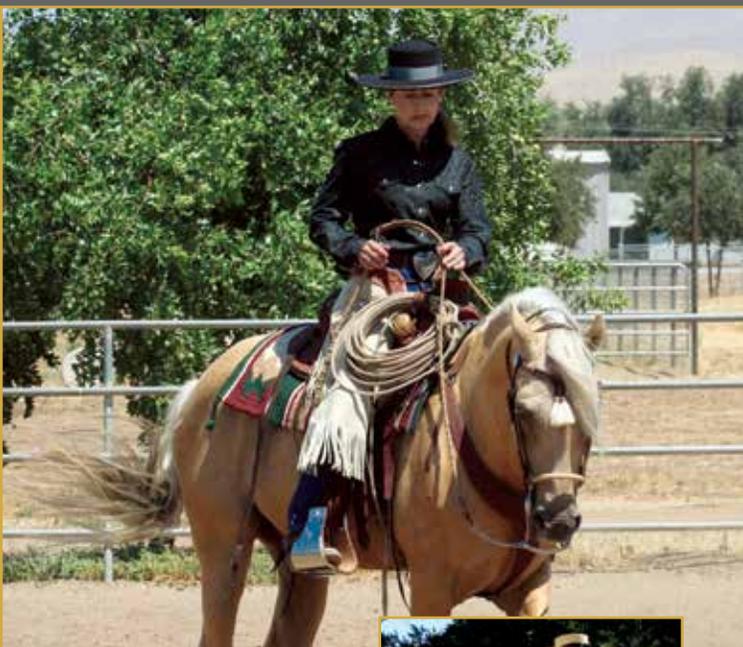
We recognize that the Morgan community, throughout its history, has not merely provided acceptance. Rather women have proven that they are more than equal in the areas of vision, direction, accomplishment and utilization of the breed.

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

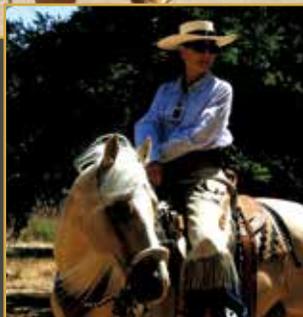
The staff of *The Morgan Horse* has, for the sixth year, searched our archives, asked our advisors and brainstormed in meetings to generate a long list and then the short list that appears here. The Honor Roll is never intended to be complete. We will add names to it annually. We strive, in one issue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

For the fifth 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 2014 Honor Roll.

Ladies, you continue to inspire us.



Jo Johnson with Can Don Joshua Danny (above) and JaF Sunrise Surfer Dude (right).



(Photo by Lynn Brown)

Jo Johnson VAQUERO HORSEWOMAN

A long time advocate of the Morgan stock horse, Jo Johnson has thrown a big loop with her life around some really good Morgans and in the process has taught many young riders to appreciate the breed and was instrumental in their development as horsemen.

Jo Johnson has done it all with the Morgan stock horse. From raising many good foals, to training good using horses, to contract packing for the U.S. Forest Service, to raising several dozen apprentices, to making California-style bridle horses from the best that she bred, to teaching clinics on training and packing, to giving demonstrations at state fairs, Jo has done it all—and to the highest standard possible. Jo's unrivaled enthusiasm and advocacy for the Morgan breed has won the hearts of many.

To see Jo ride Can Don Joshua Danny, one of the few Morgans that I knew to be straight up in the bridle, was something we will all remember. Jo and Joshua were living proof that the Morgan, by his anatomy and disposition, is a natural candidate for the elaborate and time-honored process of bridling in the Vaquero tradition.

Those of us who really know Jo will tell you that she does not talk a good game—she lives it. We say that she “whispers commands and shouts example.” Our lives are richer from knowing Jo and from her example of love and dedication to the breed.

Col (Ret) John M. Hutcheson, Gab Creek Farm

Heidi Kunkel

CARETAKER & COMPETITOR

She has overcome more obstacles than most people ever endure to remain a kind and thoughtful caretaker of everything four legged—from the finest horseflesh in show biz to the most needy creatures fate has placed in harm’s way.

“I am woman hear me roar”—I have never met a stronger woman, or person for that fact, as my dear friend Heidi Kunkel. The road she has traveled and the obstacles she has overcome are phenomenal. In fact, she is nothing short of amazing. From her career in real estate to her success in Morgans she demands and strives for the best. To say she has a good eye for a horse is putting it mildly. With the likes of Elm Hill Bay Leader, HVK Courageous Flaire, Stonecroft Byzantine, KD Hot To Trot, SYP High Definition, JW Standing Tall and Stonecroft Triumphant, I’d say her eye is spot on. Not only has Heidi shown some of these wonderful horses to world titles herself but two of these she hand picked as yearlings and watched as they went on to be crowned Park Harness World Champions with her dear friend, the late Rick Stevens, on the line. Great eye indeed.

When it comes to showing Heidi is a fierce competitor who demands perfection. Heidi has amassed tricolors from New England to Oklahoma, too numerous to mention. Some great highlights would be winning the Amateur Park Saddle World Championship with Courageous as she had years prior with Bay Leader. Heidi is equally talented behind a horse as well having won World and Reserve World Amateur Park Harness titles with Courageous and Byzantine, respectively. Who could forget the Ken and Barbie rivalry between Heidi and Courageous and Tony Lee and Queen’s Vanity Flair? The amateur park harness division has never seen the likes of the sportsmanship and camaraderie as was between these two friends. Currently, Heidi is showing the talented Stonecroft Triumphant in ladies park harness and they are a force to reckon with. Aside from the show ring Heidi has been very generous with her time having worked on various committees in the industry always trying to better the breed she so dearly loves.

Personally one could not ask for a better friend. Heidi has a big heart and many are not aware that Morgans are not the only breed that command her attention. Among her equine collection are approximately 20 miniature horses that she has rescued from the horrors of the New Holland auctions and each one is a big part of her family. Owner, exhibitor and breeder Heidi has a big heart indeed and I am honored to call her friend.

Roxanne Sardelli, Sarde Morgans

Sherry Cole

INDUSTRY LEADER

From the family that made Tedwin Topic famous, Sherry Cole saw the transition from breeder and exhibitor to organizer and leader as natural and seamless. She’s set the bar very high for those who serve in our business.

It is such an honor for me to be asked to write a few words about my friend Sherry Cole.

There are few women in the Morgan world that have made a

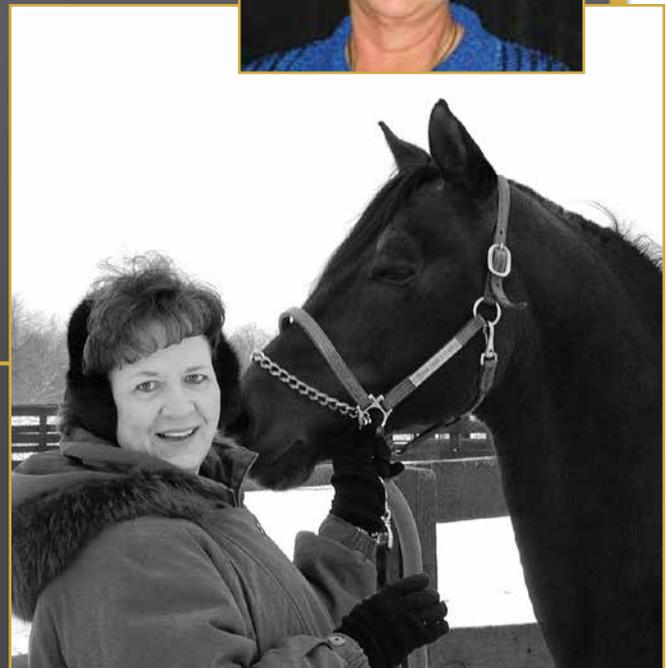


Heidi Kunkel with her good friend, the late Rick Stevens and at a show in 2013.

(Photo © Mike Galletta)



Sherry Cole at the 2011 AMHA Convention (right) and at home in 2004 (below).



greater impact on our breed and on many of the members of the Morgan family. Sherry has a lifelong history of loving and supporting all things Morgan. She has been a noted breeder, owner, exhibitor and volunteer. She has served AMHA as a Regional Director, President of the Board of Directors and now as an Emeritus. She is a member of the Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show® Committee and was the chair of the 2013 show. She is a member of the USEF Morgan Rules Committee and was a board member of AMHI. Her dedication, integrity, common sense and ability to answer just about any question dealing with Morgan horses, board history or the best way to do anything better are legendary. I swear she throws nothing away and she knows just where she can find the answer to anything! I have been in awe of her for many years.

Sherry is a leader, a mentor and one of the kindest, most genuine individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing. She has made a lasting mark on the Morgan community, truly deserving of her spot in the Women In Our Industry Honor Roll.

Cindy Mugnier, Former AMHA President



Carol and Ray Potts, manning The Lippitt Club, Inc. booth at the 2012 AMHA Convention (top), and at home (bottom).

→ *Carol Potts* **THE LIPPIITT ADVOCATE**

The Lippitt Morgan seems to attract enthusiasts who are as avid as the bloodline is unique. Carol Potts bring the full force of her personality to bear in the promotion of the breed and of her beloved Lippitts.

Carol Potts has dedicated her life to a single purpose: to promote the Morgan horse. Carol's focus on our horses and ability to spread the love of Morgans, especially Lippitt Morgans, is uncanny. Bold Venture Morgan Farm, with its Venturous prefix, in Eva, Alabama is Carol's home. There she breeds the wonderful Lippitt Morgans she so adores. Her love for Morgans is contagious and other farms have begun with Venturous bloodlines.

Carol always looks for ways and places in which to promote Morgans. She and her husband Ray (now deceased) would pack their car to the hilt with all sorts of information about Morgans, especially Lippitts, and would drive anywhere there was a Morgan or all-breed event. Some of the venues attended were the Lippitt Country Show, the Central Region Lippitt Show, Equine Affaire in Massachusetts, the Grand Nationals, and the AMHA Convention, just to name a few. Wherever horses convened, Carol could be found along with all of her promotional information and Morgan sales items.

She can "talk Morgan" (or "Lippitt Morgan") to anyone with any degree of horse knowledge leaving them all wanting more. Her's is a wealth of information, always disseminated in a very matter-of-fact manner and in no way ever pushy. She exudes passion for Morgan horses. Her home is filled not only with horse paraphernalia, but with totally organized files of many types of information regarding the Morgan horse. This serves to give her the ability to have an answer to any question just at her fingertips. She is forever educating herself so that she may educate others.

Carol and Ray were honored by the AMHA which inducted them into their Hall of Fame in 2005. Carol is just as deserving now, as she and Ray were then, to claim her place on *The Morgan Horse's* Women's Honor Roll.

Margo Gelber Ciano

On behalf of The Lippitt Club, Inc.

Muriel Burnheimer

A BREEDER OF INFLUENCE

Medomak (ma•DOM•ack) is the name of the river that runs past Muriel Burnheimer's family farm. Often mispronounced, Muriel's breeding prefix is always recognized for highest quality and beautiful Morgan horses.

Being named one of the most influential women in our breed is an honor for which Muriel may have been the model though she will undoubtedly argue that she is worthy. She was born with an eye for bloodlines that yielded some of the breed's most beautiful, athletic and memorable Medomak Morgans.

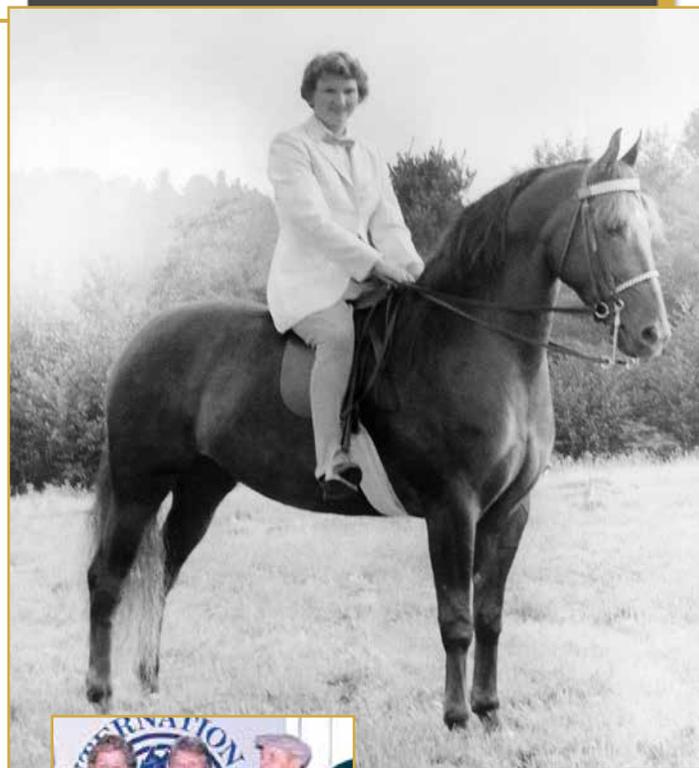
The records indicate Muriel bought her first Morgan mare in 1948 and registered her last foal in 2005. Fifty-seven years, 95 Morgan horses and the influence of one dedicated and determined woman. Sixty-four carry the Medomak prefix, Morgan horses that individually made an impact in every arena where horses compete—from the World and Grand National Championship Show to the World Pairs Driving Championships, from every New England state's own Morgan show to regional championships across America and Canada, from 4-H programs and Pony Club to Tri-County Horseman shows on the coast of Maine.

Look to the registry history and you'll be in awe of just how many of the largest (Big Oak, Merriehill & Silver Maple) to the smallest (Come Spring, Justanotha, Maine-Lee, Med-E-Oka and Sea-Vu) breeding programs have produced world, international and national champions who originated from Muriel's influence.

Look to the local coastal Maine horse community and you'll find a long list of individuals who will tell you that Muriel Burnheimer made a significant influence on them. She taught us bloodlines and more importantly she taught us about being very responsible Morgan owners. Muriel worked hard every single day that those beautiful horses were part of her life (not only does she still live on the farm, her residence is an apartment in the barn where all this equine activity took place).

She is a gem in the crown of Morgan history and a friend who deserves this recognition.

Holly Butterman, Snowview Farm Morgans



Muriel Burnheimer with Poppy Cock, circa 1960 (top) and being honored at the 2005 Maine Morgan Horse Show (left).



Rochelle "Shelly" Temple was named the 2011 America's Favorite Equestrian in Driving.

(Photo by Bettina Ruckelshaus)

Shelly Temple

OFF AND RUNNING

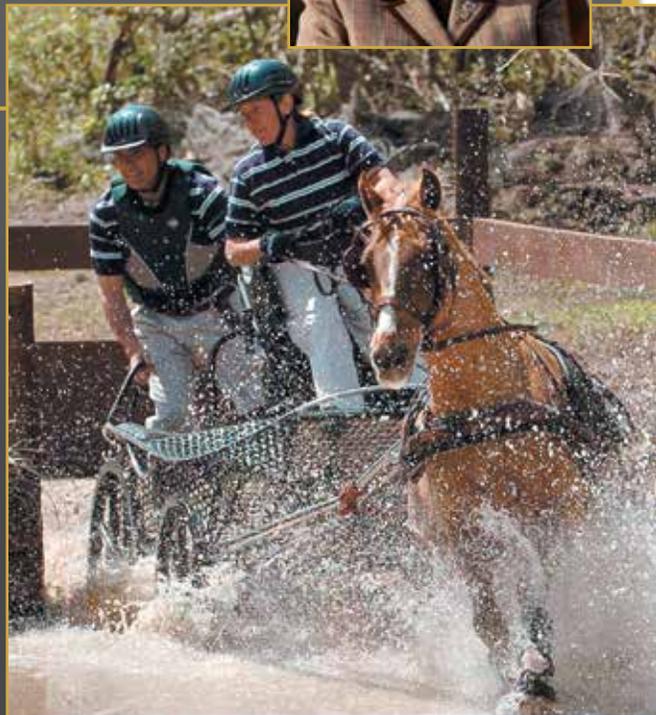
Shelly Temple, at the reins of LR Ami B-Line, has continued to prove the adage that "the pony is the Morgan breed's secret weapon," with their many forays into the deepest competition Combined Driving has to offer.

First met Shelly watching a combined driving event held at my house many years ago. She approached me and said, "where do I start learning about this sport?" Off and running!!

She bought the Morgan Whippoorwill Laertes, aka "Zipper," and she was off and running. When Shelly puts her mind to something she put her whole effort into it. Zipper was the perfect horse to learn the procedure for combined driving. And Shelly's attitude to progress was just awesome.

One day I said, "Shelly do you want to go advanced?" Her answer was "Yes, what do I do next?" and she was off and running again!! And she went on and on.

Shelly has a great way of communicating with people about how





(Photo © Howard Schatzberg)

Helen Crawford with HVK Ancient Cry at the 2006 Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show® (above) and with Tug Hill Whamunion (right).



(Photo © Avis)



Brenda Tippin at home and with Snake River Firefly.



to connect with their horse and how to start people the smart way in getting into combined driving. Shelly took LR Ami B-Line from the beginning to the top competing at the World Pony Championships and now to ridden dressage. Not only does she drive, judges and trains horses for driving, but she has made some great jewelry pieces for driving ladies. I am very pleased that Shelly is being presented this tribute to be on the *The Morgan Horse's* Women's Honor Roll.

Lisa Singer, Chateau Log

Helen Crawford **THE CONSUMMATE LADY**

It's simple: Helen Crawford is revered, loved and respected as one of the leading amateur horsewomen in Morgandom.

Helen's champions include Tug Hill Whamunion, with whom she became the second amateur to win the coveted Open Park Saddle World Championship; HVK Ancient Cry, who became the most titled Ladies Park Harness World Champion in history; and Ancient Cry's daughter, Cry Baby, who followed her dam's path to the same world title.

I first met Helen through her husband Bill Crawford, as owners of Boston Morgan Farm—I referred to him as the "Admiral." We sat on the Morgan Grand National Show Committee together for 12 years. We all became great friends.

One evening, Bill, Helen and I were having dinner and they told me they had the horse for me, and they were right. A product of their breeding program, Miss Voodoo (Tug Hill Whamunion x Boston Abracadabra) became my forever horse. They encouraged me from the beginning and continued to encourage me even when we competed against each other. That is the kind of people they were.

Helen and Bill moved from their Wilsonville, Oregon Farm to Murrieta, California and continued to win countless titles for their Boston Morgan Farm. After her husband's unfortunate and untimely demise, Helen moved back to Oregon where she now resides and is establishing a new barn with her daughter, Carolyn Crawford Dillion. The "babies" travelled with them and are now in Oregon and are going to compete in the Pacific Northwest circuit and, we hope, onto Grand National!

Along with being the most amazing challenge in the show ring with her fabulous park horses, Helen is also the most caring and loving friend. She's a bit shy, but for those of us who've become part of her circle she's amazing!

Mona Skager

Brenda Tippin **THE CHRONICLER**

Brenda Tippin is an historian on everything Morgan, cataloguing the history of the breed for this, the official breed journal.

Brenda has become our go-to gal for in-depth, historical research projects at *The Morgan Horse*. We'll have editorial meetings where we come up with obscure references to Morgans from the past, and Brenda will turn our one-sentence thought into a 7,000-word essay. Last year, we asked her to research William Randolph Hearst, and she delivered a vibrant and masterfully woven story on the Morgan breeding program of one of the most colorful personalities of the 20th century. Fast forward to two months ago, when we asked her if she knew anything about the Morgans of author Laura Ingalls Wilder—that article is slated to be published in our

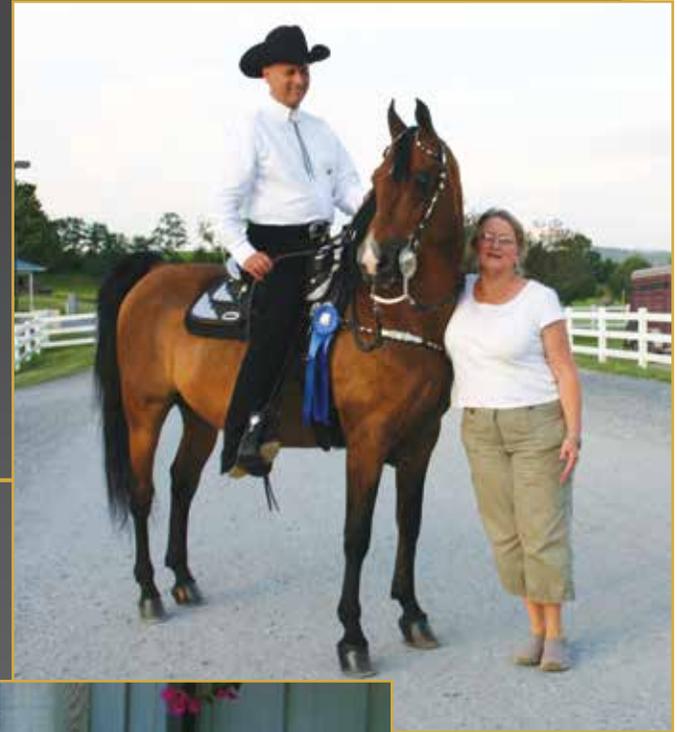
upcoming July issue, which celebrates Morgan Americana.

Brenda is also the best kind of ally the working Western and ranching Morgans could ask for—armed with thorough knowledge, a researcher’s zeal and a mighty pen (OK, laptop). She has chronicled the life of Mortana Pat, written accurately on General Custer’s Morgan and highlighted the horsemanship of Bab Verdugo.

Vintage breeding is another favorite subject for this author’s definitive examinations. Witness her stories on the Lamberts of the Quietude Stud and the famous road trotting bloodlines of yesteryear.

Brenda’s contributions go back decades and span scores of articles. If we can dream it, Brenda can write it. She is thorough, curious, and a masterful storyteller. We are able to boast that we are “everything Morgan” in no small part thanks to her!

Stephen Kinney and Abbie Trexler



Joyce Metters THE ARTIST OF HOLLYBROOK

From foundation stock that is uniformly beautiful and characteristically Morgan, she has contributed a long line of stock that is revered in the show ring and beloved by their owners.

It’s no accident that our friend, noted North Carolina horsewoman Joyce Metters, is an artist and educator as well as an accomplished Morgan trainer and breeder. With the artist’s keen eye for beauty and the educator’s focus on function and outcomes, Joyce has built a reputation for producing beautiful, talented Hollybrook-prefixed Morgan horses with the regularity of the trains that pass by the picturesque Lexington, North Carolina farm she and husband John Copley call home. Names like Hollybrook Wham Bam, Hollybrook Stage Rage and Hollybrook Headliner have made their marks as sires. Show horses like Hollybrook Touché, Hollybrook Van Gogh, Hollybrook Romeo, Hollybrook Independence and, our own horse of a lifetime, Hollybrook Star Connection have made countless victory passes while setting standards with their stylish good looks. Like the artist layering on carefully chosen colors, this astute horsewoman has developed a knack for layering on just the right combination of bloodlines to achieve, time and again, that rare combination of great beauty, athleticism and true Morgan type. And, ever the teacher, Joyce shares—her horses, her knowledge, and her friendship. Combine artistry, teaching, integrity, Southern charm and great personal warmth, and you have the complete picture of Joyce Metters, a horsewoman to be admired and emulated.

Sandy and Todd Trushel, Corinthian Stables



Joyce with Todd Trushel and Hollybrook Star Connection (above) and at home (left).

The beautiful June Brockett Wright at an awards banquet in the 1960s (right) and in 1958 with the yearling, Vigilmarch, whom she bred (below).



(Photo © W. Patriquin)

June Brockett Wright THE CALL OF THE BREEDING SHED

Insufficiently remembered, the late June Brockett Wright has been a major player in both the Morgan show ring and breeding sheds.

She simply had a love of animals (I’ve always thought it was the result of being an only child who had animals as best friends). She showed sheep, she showed cattle and she showed draft horses.

Then she met the Morgan.

She owned the great Mayphil (Magellan x Phillipa) and, finding her too hot to show, bred her, most notably twice to Orcland Vigildon (Ulendon x Vigilda Burkland)—June loved the strong trotting ability of the Ulendon lines. Their son was Vigilmarch and June followed this great stallion to Kohler Stables. There June did something she could do like no other; she organized the broodmares that would carry on the HVK prefix and she would fit and prepare the babies for everything from clipping to modeling. I would go up there in the evening to assist her. To this day, with every baby I show I think of June. She earned their respect and made them love her, all at the same time.

June carried over her skills from Kohler to her new job at Triple Creek when Larry Sparks jumped in with both feet to own the likes of Tedwin Topic and Applevale Boy King. June was instrumental in choosing the mares that would make the careers of these stallions.

June made people pay attention when she came to the show ring. She did anything she could for friends in need—both two-legged and four-legged. She bred great horses on her own and in the employment of others. Our breed is richer for her contribution and her example.

Mike Carpenter, Mike Carpenter Stables

Mary Carlton SHE DARED TO DREAM

Her remarkable adult career, which includes five wins of the Hunter Pleasure World Championship at a relatively young age, has about it the hallmark of determination that characterized her junior exhibitor journey, according to her coach from those formative years!

When Mary Carlton was fourteen years old, and had not yet won the Triple Crown of Morgan saddle seat equitation, she already knew what her future held. Mary rode with me back then, and she was very matter of fact, telling me about how her barn was going to be set up and how things were going to run. Although she knew she had a lot to learn, what she envisioned was set in stone.

Lest you think that Mary was a cocky kid who got lucky, here's the rest of the story. During the next year, Mary and I had a goal. We were going after the equitation triple crown. An equitation instructor's dream, Mary was a dedicated, passionate partner in achieving this goal. She was fiercely competitive, hard-working, willing to learn and naturally talented. When the time came, she could not be denied, winning the triple-crown that launched her into stardom and ultimately into a career for the history books.

To have dreams, you must also plan. For Mary, the plan was to do the hard work it would take to realize her goals. Winning the Hunter Pleasure World Championship five times was not an accident. Instructing World Champion equitation riders in every seat has taken a conscious effort. Inspiring her winning riders to do what it takes is a product of Mary's own ambition. More than 100 World Championships have accrued to the students and horses of Crystal Farms as well as to Mary herself...to be continued.

Sandy Sessink, Clayhill Farm



(Photo © Howard Schatzberg)

Mary Carlton with Indian Creek Bali Ha'i (above) and relaxing at home (right).



(Photo © Ken Martin)

PAST INDUCTEES

2009: Marilyn Childs • Martha V. Dupont • Anna Ela & Ruth Orcutt • Betty Greene • Helen Greenwalt • Anita Hoitsma • Gloria Jones • Cassenti • Simy Corbin • Nancy Eidam • Travis Filipek • Susan, Ling and Iann Fu • Margaret Gardiner • Georgie Green • Elberta Honstein • Bobbi Blankenship • Angela Conner Bulmer • Elaine Galatz • Barbara Irvine • Jennifer McFall • Cindy Nord • Elizabeth Power • Lynne Shpak • Suzy Lucine • Karen Myers • Judy Nason • Crescent Peirce • Polly Quinn • Barb Rudicel • Lisa Singer 2013: Renee Page • Susan Hanley •

CHOSEN BY OUR READERS

Paulette Bodnar

DEEP MORGAN ROOTS

Every year we reach out to the public, via Facebook and through AMHA's website, for a "people's choice" inductee. This year, there was overwhelming support for the candidacy of Paulette Bodnar, doyenne of the Merriehill family, a veteran breeder and a consummate organizer.

Her journey with Morgan horses began more than fifty years ago and in that time Paulette has become a life force in our breed and the future of her family. Her parents, Martin and Donna Staehnke, established Merriehill Farm, Inc. in 1960 in northern Illinois and then put down roots in Marengo in 1971. Paulette, along with her brother, Mark Staehnke, enjoyed showing, training and breeding their own horses at a very early age, and the cornerstones of the Merriehill Farm breeding program were put into place.

Management of the farm was soon Paulette's responsibility and she made it her life's work to see it succeed. It was always a collaborative family effort, but Paulette's keen eye and horse sense led to many wise and respected decisions that have made Merriehill what it is today. It goes without question that her breeding program has had a historical impact on the Morgan breed. She has been masterful at combining their "Brunk" based pedigrees to the popular bloodlines of each decade, always evolving, growing and producing quality horses that are sought after for a multitude of divisions and interests. Brother, Mark said, "While she may be my sister, I can think of few others more deserving of this recognition. Throughout her time in Morgans, she has been an exhibitor, trainer, breeder and aggressive promoter of our breed."

In addition to her breeding insight, Paulette has been a wonderful teacher to many of today's recognized trainers and breeders. When her husband Stan came to the US, his background was in Quarter Horses, Paulette was his catalyst and leader into training Morgans. She is also responsible in teaching her own children, Mark and Whitney Bodnar, and myself, Shanna Gish, all about the horse industry from breeding, to training, instructing and showing. There are countless others who have benefitted from their time spent under Paulette's wing and several have gone on to open their own successful training and breeding farms. We will all be forever in her debt for all that she has taught us about every aspect of the horse industry.

The Mid-States Morgan Horse Club, The Prairie State Morgan Classic, and the Morgan Weanling Gala are only a few of the organizations to which Paulette has given her time and energy in an effort to promote and perpetuate the breed.

Paulette has made a remarkable impact on our lives in so many ways. She prefers to do all of this in the background and is not one to take credit publicly for anything. She gives everyone around her all of the tools and knowledge they need to succeed and then pushes them to go out and do something with that knowledge. Achievement that inspires others is the distinction of greatness and there is no finer way to describe, recognize and congratulate Paulette Bodnar for all of her contributions. ■

Shanna Gish, Indian Creek

The Women In Our Industry



(Photo © Jack Schatzberg)

Curtain Call, dam of Merriehill Hooligan, with Paulette Bodnar at the 1981 Jubilee (top); Paulette and her brother, Mark Staehnke, on familiar turf at the Illinois State Fair Grounds (left); The Bodnar/Staehnke family gathers in honor of Merriehill Hooligan at the 2012 Jubilee (bottom).



(Photo © Howard Schatzberg)

Frances Pugh • Sid Spencer • Pat Tataronis Orcutt • Mary Jean Vasiloff • Judy Whitney Harris • Mary Woolverton **2010:** Beth Benard • Chris • Jeanne Mellin Herrick • Carol Simpson • Jane Steffenhagen **2011:** Peggy Alderman • Barbara Beaumont Cole • Debbie Beth Halachmy • • Bonnie Sogoloff **2012:** Laura Behning • Mary Cockriel • Frieda Datte Waer • Ellen DiBella • Ann Hailey • Carol Hudson • Maretta Kennedy Cheri Barber • Nancy Plimpton • Joan Bowers • Ann Anderson • Anne Mears • Ann Taylor • Suzy Stafford • Josette Conti • Jane Elliot