

# 2009 ASAC Convention — Non-Stop Action

By Brenda Pulis • Photos by Sandra Hall

The weekend of January 30 and 31, 2009, was the perfect time to be indoors for a convention, because some very cold weather was being felt in the Charlotte area. The Embassy Suites of Concord, N.C., was, for the second year, the meeting place of this large group of Saddlebred owners, trainers, and exhibitors who gather each January to conduct the business of The American Saddlebred Association of the Carolinas (ASAC), receive their high point and special awards, and simply have fun.

Friday's activities begin at noon with the Board of Directors meeting, Carolinas Futurity Meeting, and set up for the evening's Live and Silent Auction. Tasty hors d'oeuvres were served at 7:00 p.m. to those making their way in to bid on some top items at the live auction, plus a wonderful assortment of silent auction items. The cut off for the silent auction is just before Saturday night's awards dinner and dance, meaning everyone gets a chance to bid. One highly sought after item in the live auction was a beautiful bracelet made by Twisted Tails, containing hair from all three 2008 Carolina owned World's Grand Champions. Anita Simpson signed the ticket on this beautiful bracelet. The final total of money raised given to me after the auction was \$19,032, which breaks down to \$14,423 for ASAC, \$591 for ASAC Youth, and \$4,018 for UPHA Chapter 12, a large increase over 2008 thanks to the hard work and generosity of many, many people.

While the adults were enjoying themselves at the auction, just next door the ASAC Juniors were having a good time in their youth activities. The Mardi Gras themed evening featured a horseless horse show, food, crafts, and a DJ for dancing. While all of the activities were going on in the various rooms, vendors were set up in the hotel for browsing and shopping.

Saturday began early for this group if you were one of those headed into the Riding Instructor's Meeting at 8:30 a.m. The Carolinas Futurity group met again on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. Then everyone headed into the ASAC General Membership Meeting and Election of Officers to serve in 2009. President is Ted Foreman, Vice-President is Steve Hanks, Secretary is Betsy Boone, and Treasurer is Nancy Boone. Just next-door the ASAC Youth were in their business meeting and Election of Officers to serve in 2009. Caitlin Leith is President, Katie Morrison is Vice-President, Anna Stoddard is Treasurer, and Lauren Riggins is Historian. The youth were served lunch, and departed for a



Anita Simpson was the high bidder on a one of a kind bracelet, made from hair from all 3 world grand champions.

trip just down the street to the Nascar Speed Park.

Round Table discussions were on the schedule of events for the adults Saturday afternoon. Claude and Matt Shiflet spoke on American Saddlebreds, Jon Walker and Steve Gassen on Road Horses and Road Ponies, and Marie Gwinn and Barbara Matthews represented the AOT group.

Six o'clock rolled around before we all knew it. That was the time for the Youth Reception, where 61 youngsters were recognized with certificates for their participation in the ASHA Academy Awards program.

We all gathered next, 505 strong, in the ballroom for dinner, awards and special recognitions, and who can forget the dancing. Yes, it is a fun non-stop weekend, and a great place to see friends you may not have seen over the winter. As we said our good-byes we realized it was just over six weeks before we are together again at the ASAC Horse Show for the beginning of another show season.

## AMERICAN SADDLEBRED ASSOCIATION OF THE CAROLINAS

### ASAC HIGH POINT AWARDS — 2008

#### ACADEMY DIVISION

##### Academy 6 & Under, W & T:

1. Maelee Dudan, Lenux Stables 2. Libby Bowen, Cash Lovell Stables

##### Academy 8 & Under, W & T:

1. MacKenzie Todd, Boones Farm 2. Jamie Bo Lucas, Lucas Stables

##### Academy 9-10, W & T:

1. Arny Cedrone, Boones Farm 2. Tiffany Knox, Boones Farm

##### Academy 11-13, W & T:

1. Alex Cedrone, Boones Farm 2. Olivia Knox, Boones Farm

##### Academy 14-17, W & T:

1. Kiersten Lockman, Lenux Stables

##### Academy Adult, W & T:

1. Cheryl Bennett, Heads Up 2. Rozlyn Hill, Edgewood Stables

##### Academy Showmanship, Any Age, W & T:

1. Alex Cedrone, Boones Farm 2. Tiffany Knox, Boones Farm

##### Academy 10 & Under, WTC:

1. Donna Wesslen, Chestnut Lane 2. Ashley Stewart, Cash Lovell Stables

##### Academy 11-13, WTC:

1. Summer Blackwelder, Boones Farm 2. Sydney Cearley, Cash Lovell Stables

##### Academy 14-17, WTC:

1. Allison Babson, Cash Lovell Stables 2. Areanna Torrens, Crosswind Stables

##### Academy Adult, WTC:

1. JoDee Greenway, Lenux Stables 2. Tammy Whitworth, Deerfield Stables

##### Academy Showmanship, Any Age, WTC:

1. Summer Blackwelder, Boones Farm 2. JoDee Greenway, Lenux Stables

##### Academy Show Rider WTC:

1. Anna Roseman, Deerfield Stables 2. Kaci Baker, Cash Lovell Stables

##### Sparky Trophy, Summer Blackwelder, Boones Farm

#### EQUITATION DIVISION

##### 10 & Under, W & T:

1. Hailey Mercurio, Ingleside 2. Vanessa Patch, Chestnut Lane

##### Pleasure Equitation:

1. Kim Mueller, Ingleside Stables

##### 11-13 WTC:

1. Kim Mueller, Ingleside Stables

#### COUNTRY PLEASURE DIVISION

##### Western:

1. Monsignor, Marie Gwinn, Boones Farm  
2. Mountainview's Manhattan Viscount, Lisa Jordan-Pearce, O/E

##### Driving:

1. Ro-Day-O, Annette Greene, Summer Chase Stables  
2. CH Dr. Decker, Debbie Marcum, High Caliber

##### Juvenile:

1. Man of Hour Dreams, Alex Ennis, Ingleside  
2. Silver River, Heather Hege, Deerfield

##### Adult:

1. Upstate, Katie Matthews, Boones Farm

2. Santana's Montana, Holly Ackerman, Breakaway

##### Hunter/Sport:

1. Mountainview's Manhattan Viscount, Lisa Jordan-Pearce, O/E

2. Symbol's Supreme Eclipse, Holly Henson, O/E

##### SHOW PLEASURE DIVISION

##### Pony:

1. Scotty's Lace, Lissie Vining, Jansal Saddlebreds

2. Scoot Boot and Boogie, Jessi McCurry, Harrison Shiflet Stables

##### Driving:

1. Selvaggio, Bonnie Koch, Boones Farm

2. Bold Irish Spirit, Brenda Kelly, Holly Tree Stables

##### Juvenile:

1. Mystic Affair, Tess Sullivan, Boones Farm

2. CH It's Yabba Dabba Doo Time, Allie Wellington, Drowning Creek Farm

##### Adult:

1. CH A Chance to Dance, Marie Gwinn, Boones Farm

2. CH Five Minutes More, Barbara Matthews, O/E

##### 5-Gaited Pleasure:

1. Sunken Treasure, Drew Taylor Hewitt, High Caliber

2. Desert's Supreme Kid, Jenna Norton, Harrison Shiflet Stables

##### Pleasure Prospect:

1. CF Not Tonight Chief, Lisa Austin, Chestnut Lane

2. A Superior Night, Karen Jones, Ingleside

##### 12 & Under Walk/Trot Pleasure:

1. Stephanie Brackett, High Caliber

2. Taylor Cooley, Crosswinds

##### Amateur Owned and Trained:

1. A Promise Keeper, Pam Quick, O/E

2. CH Five Minutes More, Barbara Matthews, O/E

#### HACKNEY PONY DIVISION

##### Open:

1. Heartland Invincible, Paul Otto, Ingleside

2. Heartland's Twice As Nice, Marilyn Swimmer, Chestnut Lane

#### HARNESS PONY DIVISION

##### Open:

1. Fitz's Mademoiselle, Pauline Eckard, Drowning Creek Farm

##### Pleasure Driving:

1. Hawkeye's Chatterbox, Allie Wellington, DCF

2. Wait and See's Postmaster, Alex Foster, Cash Lovell Stables

#### ROAD PONY DIVISION

##### Juvenile:

1. Heartland's Curtain Call, Lindsey Jones, Cash Lovell Stables

2. Zildjian, Caitlin Leith, Ingleside

##### Under Saddle:

1. Perfect Offering, Jake Butts, Cash Lovell Stables

2. Star Sweetheart, Madison Cheatham, Jon Walker Stables

##### Amateur:

1. Regal's Star Attraction, Jeff Bodenhorst, Lenux Stables

2. Cappuccino, Brenda Kelly, Holly Tree Stables

##### Open:

1. Doing Time, Jan Edwards, Steve Hanks Stables

2. The Gift, Janelle D'Amato, Jansal Saddlebreds

## In Recognition of the three Carolina Owned World's Grand Champions

*Read by ASAC President, Ted Foreman at the end of Saturday night's ASAC banquet.*

ASAC has recognized its high point winners, now we take a moment to make a special recognition of an unprecedented happening in the Saddlebred world that involved three Carolina Owned horses...the Fine Harness, Three-Gaited, and Five-Gaited World's Grand Championships rocked Freedom Hall on that Saturday night last August.

Mother Mary, driven by Sandy Lilly and trained by Mercer Springs Farm, was fine harness perfection in her winning performance to capture the Fine Harness World's Grand Championship for brand new owners, Richard and Anita Simpson, of Monroe, N.C.

The undefeated three-gaited superstar, CH Our Charming Lady and Mary Marcum Orr, trained through Louisville at Cash Lovell Stables and owned by Donna and Jack Finch of Greensboro, N.C., was electrifying in her win of the Three-Gaited World's Grand Championship title.

CH Breaking News and Peter Cowart, trained by West Wind Stables and owned by Beth Arndt and Megan McClure of Taylorsville, N.C., raked and trotted a hole in the green shavings, earning a blanket of red roses and the right to make the final victory pass on this "evening to remember" in Freedom Hall. They went on to Kansas City and won it all in the Five-Gaited Championship at the American Royal, capturing the Triple Crown of the Saddlebred world for this grand horse.

A Jessie Pettie print has been commissioned to capture these wonderful horses, and will be donated by ASAC to the American Saddlebred Museum in Lexington, Ky. Each trainer and owner will also receive a print. Congratulations one and all, you have made us very proud.



WGC Mother Mary trainers Smith, Alexandra and Sandy Lilly with owners Anita and Richard Simpson flank the Jesse Pettie original watercolor.



Evan and Mary Orr, trainers of WGC CH Our Charming Lady join owners Jack and Donna Finch.

### WGC MOTHER MARY

*Several years ago from my seat at Louisville  
A beautiful horse I did spy  
Smith Lilly was driving a horse so divine  
In my mind I thought, I'd like her for mine!*

*I told the Mercer Springs folks, "I want a fine harness horse"  
We will just have to figure out the right course  
We did make it happen, It's hard to believe  
Mother Mary is mine and standing right in front of me*

*Into Freedom Hall Sandy came on Saturday night  
I thought to myself, what a beautiful sight  
Look at Mother Mary – an angel on clouds  
The crowd was roaring and I was so proud!*

*All were given a heads up for their special part  
So many to thank, now where do I start  
Support from Richard, family, and the Saddlebred community  
Those will be memories forever cherished by me!*

*The crowd's reaction in both mare and championship classes  
It really seemed as if I was looking through rose colored glasses  
To tell you the truth in my seat I could not sit  
But when all was said and done, it was really worth it!*

– Karen McClure

### WGC OUR CHARMING LADY

*In 2005, to Cash Lovell Stables Donna and Jack Finch did go  
Donna thought "Maybe I'll take a lesson or so"  
First came CH Riva Diva, a special country pleasure mare  
Could they find another horse that could compare?*

*2007, Lexington, Kentucky, cold, snow, and a beautiful horse  
Do we purchase? The answer would have to be "of course"  
The most remarkable animal they had ever seen  
"Grace" is beyond their wildest dreams!*

*Saturday night at the World's Championship Show  
Will it ever be time for our horse to go?  
The Three-Gaited Grand Championship is finally called  
When Our Charming Lady enters, Freedom Hall is in awe!*

*Still an undefeated team, Grace and Mary show no fear  
The crowd cheers loudly and feels victory is near!  
Electric, poised, and with such great style  
Mary and Our Charming Lady always go the extra mile!*

*Mary Orr and Our Charming Lady  
They go together without a maybe!  
Another World Grand Championship for North Carolina  
How could Stake Night be any "finer"?*

– Karen McClure



Peter, Kim and Camille Cowart, trainers of WGC CH Breaking News, join owner Megan McClure with the print of the three North Carolina owned World's Grand Champions.

## WGC CH BREAKING NEWS

*Let's all guess what horse will be next  
Yes! It's the winner of the three biggest Five-Gaited Grand  
Championships!*

*Let's take a short trip down memory lane  
And hear how this game horse racked his way to fame!*

*At home in his stall News is always gentle and affectionate  
Maybe in anticipation of an extra apple or peppermint!  
He is always all business when he goes to show  
In hopes of to the winner's circle he will go!*

*It all started with a big, red Christmas bow  
The big game, beautiful horse was for Megan McClure to show!  
World Champion and Reserve World Champion of Champions  
This team always created a lot of excitement and action!*

*In 2008 Megan and Peter made a big decision  
Hope of a Triple Crown winner was the reason!  
A dream of Peter's for a very long time  
A trip to Louisville's big stake winner's circle would be just fine!*

*Anticipation before every show  
Peter Cowart does not get nervous, that we all know!  
Cool, calm, collected with a mindset  
Peter and News would be ready, on that you could bet!*

*Lexington, Louisville, and Kansas City  
Great horses competed and yes, there were many!  
The workouts which News likes best  
Definitely put all the others to the test!*

*Each time News and Peter came in the ring  
It was like watching a well-oiled machine!  
Lexington, Yes, Louisville, Yes,  
Kansas City would be the final test!*

*Like a rocket in the ring they did go  
Wow, they put on quite a show!  
When it came time for the final curtain call  
CH Breaking News and Peter Cowart did win it all!*

*Turn on your TV at 6:00 o'clock no matter what channel you choose  
Hear the name of this grand horse we call Breaking News!  
A grand, chrome trimmed horse who gives more than he takes  
Wears a Triple Crown for winning all three of the Big Stakes!*

— Karen McClure

### ROAD HORSE DIVISION

#### Under Saddle:

1. Vivacious, Dr. Holly Ackerman, Breakaway Stables
2. Eclipse, Barbara Matthews, Jon Walker Stables

#### Youth:

1. Royal Count, Rebekah Cloninger, Drowning Creek Farm

#### Amateur:

1. Wheres Reuben, Debra Clark, Jon Walker Stables
2. Blue Sky, Rick Harris, Steve Hanks Stables

#### Open:

1. The Dreamer, Jean Myers, Steve Hanks Stables
2. Royal Count, Rebekah Cloninger, Drowning Creek Farm

### FINE HARNESS DIVISION

#### Amateur:

1. Katie's Dream, Britt Mitchell, Lucas Stables

#### Open:

1. Dark Vader, Quintus VanderSpuy, Lenux Stables
2. Katie's Dream, Britt Mitchell, Lucas Stables

### THREE GAITED DIVISION

#### Pony:

1. Cameo's Carte Blanche, Caroline Anderson, Cash Lovell Stables
2. Highpoint's So Sassy, Meghan Toms, Crosswinds Stables

#### Juvenile:

1. Callaway's Paisano, Jena Norton, Harrison Shiftlet Stables
2. CH The Showstopper, Margaret Morrison, High Caliber

#### Amateur Park:

1. Aerial View, Martha Fraser, Ingleside
2. Makin' a Move, Bredin Rush, Heads Up

### Juvenile Park:

1. My Mountain Heirs, Rebekah Cloninger, Drowning Creek Farm
2. Kalamama Shiraz, Drew Taylor Hewitt, Cash Lovell Stables

#### Open Park:

1. Cybertown, Cydney Cutchall, Boones Farm
2. Unpretentious, Lynne Hege, Deerfield Stables

#### Amateur:

1. Callaway's Compatible, Nancy Chauvin, Lenux Stables
2. Soulmate, Barbara Bush, West Wind Stables

#### Ladies:

1. Our Charming Lady, Jack and Donna Finch, High Caliber
2. Spoon's Top Star, Brenda Pulis, West Wind Stables

#### Open:

1. Dash for Cash, Janelle D'Amato, Jansal Saddlebreds
2. Buckles Boots and Spurs, Wendy Coley, Boones Farm

### FIVE GAITED DIVISION

#### Pony:

1. Jewels for a Lady, Tanner Parham, Mystic View
2. I Believe I Can Fly, Sarah Martin, Cash Lovell Stables

#### Juvenile:

1. What's the Whoopla, Caitlin Leith, Ingleside
2. Diamond's Hope, Sarah Longworth, Cash Lovell Stables

#### Amateur:

1. SA Carlswald Prince's Dominoe, Dr. Wendy Troyer, Boones Farm
2. Dreamin' Blue, Katherine Stephenson, DCF

### Ladies:

1. Shamrock's Free Step, Janelle D'Amato, Jansal Saddlebreds
2. Leatherwood's Hats Off, Ali Deutsch, Boones Farm

#### Open:

1. Fog, Becky Rankin, Drowning Creek Farm
2. Tobie McGuire, Anna Drew Kirk, Harrison Shiftlet Stables

### ASHA STATE PLEASURE HORSE OF THE YEAR 2008

Rules: Horses must be registered American Saddlebreds. Owners must be ASHA members, be the recorded owner of the horse, and live in North or South Carolina or the horse must be trained in North or South Carolina. Awards must be by a 'high point' system as determined by the Charter Club (ASAC).

### Country Pleasure Division

#### Western:

- NC: Mountainview's Manhattan Viscount, Lisa Jordan-Pearce, O/E
- NC: Monsignor, Marie Gwinn, O/E

#### Driving:

- NC: Ro-Day-O, Annette Greene, Summer Chase Stables
- SC: Santana's Montana, Dr. Holly Ackerman, Breakaway Stables

#### Juvenile:

- NC: Man of Hour Dreams, Alex Ennis, Ingleside

#### Adult:

- NC: Upstate, Katie Matthews, Boones Farm
- SC: Santana's Montana, Dr. Holly Ackerman, Breakaway Stables

#### Hunter:

- NC: Mountainview's Manhattan's Viscount, Lisa Jordan-

### Pearce, O/E

### Show Pleasure Division

#### Driving:

- NC: Bold Irish Spirit, Brenda Kelly, Holly Tree Stables
- SC: Selvaggio, Bonnie Koch, Boones Farm

#### Juvenile:

- NC: Mystic Affair, Tess Sullivan, Boones Farm

#### Adult:

- NC: Miraculous Odds, Lauren Camp DeHaan, Boones Farm

- SC: Chance to Dance, Marie Gwinn, Boones Farm

#### 5-Gaited:

- NC: Sunken Treasure, Drew Taylor Hewitt
- SC: Gentry Crest's Rainbow Connection, Shan Gentry, Gentry Crest Farm

### MARTINA ROSEBERRY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS

**Amateur of the Year:** Brenda Pulis

**Juvenile of the Year:** Rebekah Cloninger

**Professional of the Year:** Lewis Eckard

**Sandra Hall Distinguished Service Award:** Pam & Tony Quick

**Frank Ogletree Youth Award:** Liz Holmes

**Margaret Stewart Youth Award:** Katie Morrison

**Barbara Blackwelder Humanitarian Award:** Carol Addison

### PERFORMANCE DIVISION:

High Point Barn: Cash Lovell Stables; Reserve: Boones Farm

### ACADEMY DIVISION:

High Point Barn: Boones Farm; Reserve: Cash Lovell Stables

# ASAC AWARDS

## The Sandra Hall Distinguished Service Award

The Sandra Hall Distinguished Service Award recognizes ASAC members for their tireless and unselfish efforts for the betterment of ASAC, and in this case two members who willingly serve the organization in any and all capacities.



The persons that nominated our winners said it best ... Pam and Tony are much like Sandra and Keith in that they serve ASAC in all capacities. You will see Pam or Tony as a ringmaster, working the gate, passing out ribbons, or being the backbone behind coming up with an idea and getting it done! In any organization there is the 80/20 rule. We are all lucky that Pam and Tony are the 20% side. What I have noticed the most is their promotion of ASAC and the American Saddlebred. Like the Halls, there have been so many promotional events that the Quicks have organized, set up and worst of all, had to pack up! From the Raleigh exhibits to the Charlotte Jumper Classic booth, they are there in the trenches always promoting ASAC and the American Saddlebred. They are a big part in the Winter Tournaments and working on the ASAC Directory, both of which raise much needed funds for our organization.

As the criteria reads "to be awarded to an ASAC member for their tireless, unselfish efforts for the betterment of ASAC."

We say thank you for all you do and proudly present the Sandra Hall Distinguished Service Award to **Pam and Tony Quick**.

## The Frank Ogletree Youth Award

The recipient of the Frank Ogletree Youth Award stepped forward and took the role of Youth Advisor this year when Christy Absher-Johnson had to step back to care for her father. Not only did she pick up where Christie had left off, but she rallied the rest of the youth advisors and kept the youth activities going full speed ahead! In her daily life and her horse-related activities, she always comes through for other people. This time she did it for the youth! She always asks what more she can do. She is a very special person, and she has made this year a special one for ASAC youth with all of their outstanding activities and projects.



Tonight's Frank Ogletree Youth Award is presented to **Liz Holmes** to honor her work and dedication to our youth.

## The Margaret Stewart Memorial Youth Award

To be awarded to an ASAC youth member who stands out among their peers, exemplifying dedication to the American Saddlebred Horse and ASAC.

This year's recipient of the Margaret Stewart Memorial Youth Award has always exhibited a love for horses. Even at a very early age, she was working at the barn whether it was grooming school horses, holding horses, or running those ever present errands like getting a whip or an



extra helmet. Now she is 16 and she is indispensable at the barn. She has graduated to warming up horses, assisting at shows, and being a friend to the younger riders.

Not only is our recipient a great help at her barn she is an outstanding junior exhibitor. She has won many classes in her career but one of the most memorable was the 2002 World's Championship qualifier in the three-gaited pony division. She also showed Attache's Crown Royal for Vicki Byrd while Vicki recuperated from an injury. Tonight's honoree spends countless hours at the barn and at horse shows but she still finds time to do the same at school. She is captain of her softball team, a member of the French Club, the French Honor Society, and the National Honor Society. She puts in hours of work at school and horse shows but she always finds time to help with ASAC Youth activities.

Tonight's recipient of the Margaret Stewart Memorial Youth Award is **Katie Morrison**.

## The Barbara Blackwelder Humanitarian Award

The Barbara Blackwelder Humanitarian Award recognizes an ASAC member for their humanitarian deeds and betterment of ASAC. Our honoree is hard working, soft spoken, and always ready to lend a helping hand. She donates to ASAC, UPHA, and The Carolinas Futurity generously each year. She is a behind-the-scenes person who tends to her business while doing kind deeds for others.



She moves from farm to farm to provide her therapeutic services for show horses and a large following of professionals. Under her skilled hands many horses have achieved their potential and often exceeded it. Many horse people also depend on her to relieve their back, knee, and shoulder aches, which she does with a smile. Her work is ever in demand, with her days often start before dawn.

It is not always the folks who win the most ribbons that need a nod of recognition, it is sometimes those who serve others and help in their success that we need to applaud. Please help me recognize a friend to many, **Ms. Carol Addison**.

## The Martina Rosenberry Sportsmanship Award — Amateur of the Year

To be presented to an ASAC Amateur who meets the following criteria: 1) Observes the rules of play and wins or loses with grace.; 2) Merits the honor of receiving this award due to a praise worthy feature, action or quality and; 3) Has experienced significant accomplishments as an ASAC Amateur — "something successfully achieved."



Tonight's recipient has "had a hard year" as it was expressed by one of the ASAC members who placed her name before the Board to be considered for this award. But "hard year" or not, she has continued to fulfill her responsibilities to ASAC. Much as she was thrust into the Saddle Horse business without even knowing what a horse was, she took on the task of planning and coordinating our ASAC Conventions even though it wasn't her area of expertise. Year after year, she stood in front of a roomful of people and presented our most coveted awards even though she didn't consider herself a public speaker.

Exemplifying the true definition of an Amateur, she has spent 34 years working as hard as any individual has ever worked and dedicating countless hours to becoming a proficient rider. And she did it for no other reason than

## ASAC AWARDS

the pure love of the sport. Her determined mind-set paid off when she was teamed with her wonderful mare, Spool's Top Star, or "Topsey" as she is affectionately known. In 2008, she and Topsey trotted into Freedom Hall, survived a tough class, made the workout, and left with a beaming smile after the ride of a lifetime! In their second Louisville ride, she and Topsey took home the ribbon that made the experience complete. But the real prize was not the ribbon, it was the thrill of reaching a goal she had set for herself long ago.

Tonight, for her grace, her merit and her accomplishment, we present the Martina Rosenberry Sportsmanship Award to ASAC's own, **Brenda Pulis**.  
**The Martina Rosenberry Sportsmanship Award — Juvenile of the Year**

The Martina Rosenberry Sportsmanship Award goes to a Junior Exhibitor that Martina would have truly enjoyed watching in the show ring. This young lady has shown road ponies, road horses, road horses under saddle, game park horses, and her favorite, a big going five-gaited horse. She is dedicated to all things horse, and has risen to the challenge with each new equine partner she has acquired.

Her first show horse, Attache's Irish Wine, taught her volumes about showing in the large country pleasure classes. She was then teamed with the highly competitive road pony, Dun-Haven Grandiose. They proved hard to beat in their juvenile road pony classes even as she seemed to stretch her legs to reach the foot rests in the pony bike. Before we knew it her need for speed led her to the road horse classes, first with that veteran of the show ring, Diamond Hustler, then with At Full Throttle, and most recently with WC Royal Count. If there were no classes for junior exhibitors at a show you just might have seen this team taking on the amateurs.

Her five-gaited pony, Jeweled Star, taught her lots about riding five gaits, preparing her for her juvenile five-gaited horse, WCC CH Dusty Beau. The thrills she had showing Beau in 2006 and 2007 are probably where you saw her having the most fun.

If her trainer needed a catch rider, she was ready, willing, and able to step up and give it her best. Thus came her many winning rides on My Mountain Heirs in the highly competitive Three-Gaited Park classes at shows large and small.

Rebekah's trainer, Lewis Eckard, will tell you she is "a good listener". Add to that a young lady that has developed into a good rider, is a good sport, and a credit to all of the Junior Exhibitor riders on the tough Carolinas circuit.

Congratulations to the Martina Rosenberry Youth Sportsmanship Award winner, **Miss Rebekah Cloninger**.

*Editor's Note: Rebekah began her riding career at Barney Garrison Stable with Barney and his Mother, Joan Whitesides.*

**The Martina Rosenberry Sportsmanship Award — Professional of the Year**

The Martina Rosenberry Sportsmanship Professional Award winner is a long time Carolinas trainer, breeder, and exhibitor of many top American Saddlebreds, Hackney ponies, and road horses. He has been a self-taught trainer for over 45 years, winning both world and national titles with many grand horses, and ponies, for many different owners. He promotes the American Saddlebred both in word and deed, serving on many different committees through the years, with both the American Saddlebred Horse Association, and the United States Equestrian Federation.



Long recognized as one of our sports top judges, he has held a judging license for over 30 years, and judged shows in the United States, Canada, and South Africa, including the Morgan Grand National and our World's Championship many times. He knows of what he judges for he has ridden and won on those green shavings in Freedom Hall more than once. A list of his many champions would keep us here well into the night.

He is a dedicated horseman and a sportsman, willing to help the next generation of trainers learn and understand the horse business, for he has lived it every day of his life since he was a very young boy. Through the years, with the help and support of his dedicated family, he has put the name Drowning Creek Farm on the map, and for his many professional achievements in and out of the show ring, his long time friend, Martina Rosenberry, would be very pleased to see him receive the Professional Sportsmanship Award named in her honor. Congratulations to **Lewis Eckard**.

**Carolinas Futurity Breeders' Award**

The 2008 recipient for the Carolinas Futurity Breeders' Award is no stranger to the winner's circle. She has certainly raised and exhibited a unique and exceptional string of babies not only here in support of the Carolinas but nationally, as well. This year alone, she nominated three weanlings, two yearlings, and one two-year-old to the Carolinas Futurity winning first place in the open weanling class, first place in the open yearling class, second place in the amateur weanling class, and first and second place in the Futurity weanling championship class. All, setting an unprecedented representation of fine Saddlebred breeding here in our Carolinas. She has been an outstanding ambassador for this industry and contributed so much to not only the show ring but to the Futurity fundraisers as well. It is her hard work and knowledge of breeding that wins this award. We recognize the Carolinas Futurity Breeder of the Year — 2008 — **Sue Nifong**.

**Carolinas Futurity Distinguished Service Award**

This year the Distinguished Service award is presented to a lady who has worked tirelessly for the Futurity over the past years. She has labored in the concession stand at the Dallas shows, collected and set up items for the silent auctions, helped procure stallion services for the stallion auction, as well as finding mare owners who would bid and purchase these services. No one can even imagine how many 50/50 raffle tickets and fundraiser tickets she has sold!!

She has not shied away from the challenges our horse industry faces in this unstable economy and is constantly shuffling ideas on how she can serve and maintain a hectic trainer's schedule. Having served as President of the Futurity for 2007 and 2008, she faces the job for 2009 as a privilege to actively promote an industry she loves. Jokingly she stated, "You don't make any money at it, so you better love it!!"

It is an honor to recognize the Carolinas Futurity Distinguished Service Award winner, **Sheila Wingler**.

**Carolinas Futurity Gives Sincere Appreciation**

In recognition and with sincere appreciation the Futurity would like to thank an individual who has supported the Futurity for many years. Not only has he contributed monetarily, but he has allowed the Futurity to conduct most of its fund-raising events at the shows he manages. He is always accommodating and genuinely aspires to support this special breed we love, the Saddlebred. He has given the Futurity a vendor space and donated the tables for our silent auction held each year at the Asheville Lions Club show. He allows us to conduct our 50/50 sales at his shows and always participates, encouraging others to do the same. Time and time again, he has donated a check to increase the winnings for the futurity classes. For his many years of support and generosity, the Carolinas Futurity would like to present this plaque to **Mr. Ray Cloninger**.