

2014 ASHA Breeders Hall Of Fame Award ANNE NEIL

The following bio appeared in the awards booklet Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the UPHA/ASHA/AHHS Convention in Savannah, Georgia.



ASHA President Bob Funkhouser (l) and ASHA Executive Director Bill Whitley inducted Anne Neil into the ASHA Breeders Hall Of Fame Saturday night in Savannah.

Anne Neil was born into and grew up with a family of horse lovers. Her father was a successful breeder, judge, horseman, and salesman extraordinaire. Her mother was a wonderful asset to a very successful businessman. The farm she grew up on was deeply involved in the breeding business long before she was working there, having had a long list of great stallions such as #1 sire King Coe, Cameo on Parade, King of Rose a Lee, Secret Society, Kalarama Command, Hayfield's Bold Knight, Grand Command, Firelane and numerous others. From the earliest age all she wanted to do was work horses, breed horses, sell and show horses. It was a natural fit for her since she spent every minute she could with her father asking questions from breeding to judging and training.

Unfortunately her father was killed in an accident when she was 16 years old. She finished high school and reluctantly went to Stephens College as was already planned. After graduating from Stephens she returned to her first love Blythewood Farms and continued the business. She has said that but for the friendship of Jane and Lee Fahey and Art Simmons, when I was away, I never would have made it. It was a very tough time for me. I was both homesick and heartsick. Currently Blythewood Farms has about 30 broodmares and have developed horses from stallions A Suberb Manhattan and #1 sire CF First Night Out and now his sons First Watch, At Night and CF Rare Night Out.

Anne commented on the success of the operation at Blythewood . . . "I have been blessed with a great support system, the people that work here mean the world to me as they are both friends and family. Pedro Martine and Ramon Gomez have worked at the farm for over 40 years. They make me look good and are a major part of our success. Richard Witt has been at Blythewood since the early 50s. My mother who is the most positive influence in my life, has given me the opportunity to do what I love. She has shared the love of the horses, the people and the business with me. She has encouraged me to do what matters most We have enjoyed wonderful friends and customers together. I have lived the dream!"