

# AMERICAN HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HALL OF FAME

## Larry Bacon

*Editor's note: The following speech was read by announcer Peter Fenton Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017 at the World's Championship Horse Show.*

Larry Bacon is an outstanding nominee for the AHHS Kentucky State Fair Hall of Fame. His lifelong devotion to the equine industry spanned 60 plus years from his early childhood days in Indiana until his death in February, 2012.

Larry served as a judge, trainer, owner, breeder, exhibitor, and farrier during that time period. His accomplishments in those areas alone would make him worthy nominee for this award. The show ring accomplishments alone include over 100 World's and Reserve World's Championships in numerous Hackney divisions. He also showed very successfully in the American Saddlebred and Roadster horse divisions, but Larry's accomplishments are numerous in additional areas.

Recognizing the importance of "giving back to the industry" became a focus of Larry's. He was generous with his time in the promotion of the Hackney pony. He was a member of the USEF Hackney Committee for 20 plus years, always evaluating and supporting changes for the improvement of the breed.

In addition he served as a member of the USEF Hearing Committee and Larry was also a member of the Roadster Committee. He officiated at the World's Championship Kentucky State Fair multiple times. He was a participant at numerous seminars, forums and hands-on demonstrations.

He served on the American Hackney Horse Society Board of Directors. He was for many years an active member of the All

American Horse Classic show committee. He served on the Board of the ARPPA as Vice President. In these endeavors, his focus was always the betterment of the equine industry.

The United Professional Horseman's Association (UPHA) proved to be a passion for Larry. Larry served on the Board of Directors for more than 22 years. During this time period he served as chapter chairman, first vice president, president, and finally treasurer until he retired in 2010.

He served on the UPHA Executive Committee for 20 years. He also served on numerous UPHA Committees such as Classics Committee, KSF Committee, Incentive Sale Committee and Finance Committee. The imprint Larry left on the UPHA has benefited the equine industry.

Larry's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. He is a member of the American Hackney Horse Society Hall of Fame, Indiana Horseman's Hall of Fame and the UPHA Tom Moore Hall of Fame. He was also awarded the Shirley Parkinson Professional Achievement Award, The Presidents Award, and the now annually given Larry Bacon Lifetime Achievement Award, presented at the UPHA / AHHS Convention each year.

The following are just a few of his KSF World Champions: WC Andiamo, WC Revelation, WC Aisle Party, WC Triumphant, WC Bruschetta, WC Guess Who, RWC Fast Forward, RWC No Regrets, WC Rare Elegance, WC Kings Miss Liz, WC Kings



Larry Bacon's wife Barbara was joined by AHHS President Andy Freseth (l), daughter-in-law Barbara Bacon, niece Ellie Troutman, grandson Michael Bacon and board member Brooke Jacobs for his posthumous induction Wednesday evening in Freedom Hall. Photo by Howard Schatsberg

Rocket, WC Poinsettia's Reality, WC Lady Lalique, WC Sambuca, WC Mr. Amigo, WC Early Edition, WC Night Passage, WC Hustling Harriet, RWC Arther B, WC Holidays Prime Time, WC DH Crystal King, WC Shagbarks Cover Girl.

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## Carl and Kathryn Nichols

*Editor's note: The following speech was read by announcer Peter Fenton Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017 at the World's Championship Horse Show.*

Compared to the legends previously inducted into the American Hackney Horse Society Hall of Fame, Carl and Kathryn Nichols consider themselves to be novices. However, just like the inductees before them, they share a great love for the Hackney Pony.

Carl and Kathryn purchased their first Hackney pony in the early '90s. It was a pleasure driving pony that they showed for a couple of years. Later they bred her and she produced a little bay mare they named Portrait Of A Lady. It was then that the idea of breeding Hackneys as a hobby began to take hold. Fencing soon followed. Barns and run-in sheds were built and Crystal Creek Farm was on its way to becoming a reality.

Carl visited Lee Dunn, who was located in Michigan at that time, and inquired about buying some ponies. He purchased a weanling and his name was changed to Crystal Creek's Commander. As a four-year-old, Carl showed Crystal Creek's Commander to the Reserve Junior Harness Pony Championship title here in Freedom Hall. In 2010, Kathryn showed Commander and had a blue ribbon drive in the Amateur Ladies Harness Pony class here at the World's Championship Horse Show.

On another trip to Dun-Haven Farm, Carl noticed a little bay stallion in the pasture that held his head high and had lots of motion. Carl asked if he might be for sale; after all, Crystal Creek Farm needed a breeding stallion. His name was Dun-Haven Phenomenal.

Under the Majestic Oaks banner Phenomenal was the World's Champion Harness Pony Stallion-Gelding winner in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2011. He was the UPHA Open Harness Pony of the Year in 2009 and 2011. He won the World's Grand Championship Harness Pony title in 2009.

In 2012 he returned to Freedom Hall in the amateur ranks and was named the Reserve Amateur Harness Pony Champion with Kathryn at the lines. Dun-Haven Phenomenal is the primary breeding stallion at Crystal Creek Farm today.

Both of these stallions have produced winning show ponies: Crystal Creek's Hot Shot, Crystal Creek's Captain Mike, Crystal Creek's New Generation, Crystal Creek's Hot to Trot, and Limited Breeders Stake winners Crystal Creek's Dr. Hill and Crystal Creek's Warlock, to name a few. Today Crystal Creek Farm is home to approximately 80 ponies where Crystal Creek's Extreme shares the breeding duties along with Dun-Haven Phenomenal.

Carl and Kathryn are thankful for each trainer, exhibitor, groom, farrier, veterinarian and friend who has helped them along the way. The Crystal Creek breeding program would not be possible without great people having done, and continuing to do, their jobs and doing them well. According to the Nichols', they feel that the staff at Crystal Creek Farm largely deserves the credit for this Hall of Fame honor.

Winning is thrilling and that is what everyone hopes to achieve. But sharing the Hackney pony is the best victory. Three most memorable moments for Carl and Kathryn



AHHS board member Brooke Jacobs (l) and AHHS President Andy Freseth joined Carl and Kathryn Nichols in center ring Wednesday night for their hall of fame induction ceremony. Photo by Howard Schatzberg

include: hosting a birthday party for their 95-year-old friend, Dr. Harry Hill, so that he could meet his namesake Crystal Creek's Dr. Hill; hosting a "horse show day" at Crystal Creek Farm for numerous friends of their terminally ill friend, John Reed, who wanted to watch his wife show a pony; and putting fellow horseman Carol Addison in the show ring at J.D. Massey in Clemson, SC this past April. Owning and showing a Hackney pony brings joy in many ways and it is not always about the winning.

Carl and Kathryn Nicholas thank the American Hackney Horse Society for adding their names to the list of legends of the Hackney breed.