

2016 ASHAV Hall of Fame Inductees

Editor's Note: Joe Shortt, Brenda Pulis, along with Ceil and Kenny Wheeler were inducted into the ASHAV Hall of Fame at the horse show. The following are the text of the speeches that were read. Photos provided by Shane Shiflet.

CEIL AND KENNY WHEELER

The ASHAV Hall of Fame focuses on a life-long commitment to the Saddlebred Horse industry, and you would be hard-pressed to find individuals more fitting than 2016 inductees Ceil and Kenny Wheeler.

Kenny was born into a family of horse lovers. His father, Kenneth Wheeler Sr., is a renowned hunter trainer, while his mother, the late Sallie Busch Wheeler, built Cismont Manor Farm into a major player in the Saddlebred and hunter worlds during the mid-1960's. A myriad of world's champion hackney ponies joined the string in the 1970's with young Kenny driving to World Championships with the great road pony, Speed Limit.

Ceil also started at a young age. She began taking saddleseat riding lessons at the age of four, the youngest student Virginia Intermont College had ever accepted. Ceil and her sister Cyndy showed Saddlebreds all over southwest Virginia and eastern Tennessee through the 1970's and 80's.

After graduating from East Tennessee State University, Ceil returned to the family farm and began to train and teach riding lessons. Her riding program grew to over 60 students with a barn full of training horses.

Ceil and Kenny first met on the Virginia show circuit in the early 1990's. They later married and this team began their journey to become two of the finest, most passionate ambassadors for the American Saddlebred industry. The couple moved to Keswick, where Ceil continued to train Saddlebreds at historic Cismont Manor farm, while Kenny was working for a local Anheuser-Busch distributorship. They moved to Arkansas where they lived for nine years before returning to Keswick and purchasing East Belmont Farm where they live today.

Their daughters, Catherine and Sallie-Mason, have continued on in the family tradition as world champion equestrians. The two have shown in equine events ranging from the green shavings



of Louisville to hunter jumpers and foxhunts in Virginia. Ceil and Kenny are justifiably proud of the girls' dedication to their horse endeavors.

The list of World Championships won by the Wheeler Family is extensive and includes such horses as: Strapless, Summer Sweet, Fancy Ribbons, Joe Friday, Memories Paragon, Work It, Amelia Heircat, Desert's Supreme Kid, The Mighty Moe, Pucker Up, CH Swing An Singin, Callaways' Born For This, Simbara's Sweet Lorraine, Wooly Bully, Caraway's New York Minute, Nuttin But Talk, Cheers to You, Kentucky Proud, Callaway's Naughty and Nice, Victoria Lynn, Runaway, Whassup (a son of friend Larry Hartsock's stallion, Exalted Effect), Bodidly, Callaway's Brioni and 11 times World Champion Walterway's Remember Me.

The Wheeler family has associated with some of the greats of the horse world like Jim B. and

Jimmy Robertson, Gib Marcucci, Bill Robinson, Dr. Alan Raun, Randy and Denessa Harper, John Shea, Nelson Green, John and Tammie Conatser, Mike Tunstall and Smith, Alexandra and Sandy Lilly.

Kenny currently serves on the Board of the ASHA working to support the breed. The Wheelers are major supporters of the ASB Museum and in their many sponsorships of horse shows large and small.

The Wheelers are gracious, welcoming and caring. Their lifelong commitment has been and will continue to be a driving force for our industry, striving to make it better.

Please join me in congratulating Ceil and Kenny on their induction into the ASHAV Hall of Fame.