

John and Tammie Conatser

In the Pursuit of Excellence

By Jennifer Grey

John and Tammie Conatser, of Carriage Lane Farm in Nicholasville, KY, consummate professionals who strive for excellence in everything they do, have built an enviable show record spanning more than four decades. Justifiably famous for building world class amateur horse and rider teams, they have trained an elite group of riders who have earned multiple world titles. This feature addresses not only what John and Tammie have achieved in the show ring, it also provides a glimpse of what they do each day to reach for perfection. While they continue to produce some of the top performing horses in the country, they have kept their 'boutique' program small enough to focus on the unique needs of each horse and rider. Intelligent, interesting people who make the time for outside pursuits, they live a rich, well-balanced life.

John, a native of Brentwood, Tennessee, has a family history with the American Saddlebred going back at least two generations. Owners would come to their farm from miles around to have his grandfather gait their horses for use as a comfortable means of transport. By the time John's father, Marvin Conatser, was involved with horses, they were being used for both show and pleasure. "It was a carefree childhood," John remembered. "I loved the life and the guys at the barn. There were no restrictions about where I was or where I went." Riding from the time he could walk and beginning showing as a juvenile, horses were an integral part of John's life. Not wanting to be restricted in a career choice, however, he attended Middle Tennessee State University to study airport management. Learning to fly and gaining a pilot's license during the college years, he remained fascinated by aviation but somewhere between his sophomore and junior years, he was sure he wanted a future with horses. When he returned home after graduation with a degree in Aerospace Administration, he became an assistant to his father, a Hall of Fame trainer, who was in the prime of his career working for Gaynor Shane at Windermere Farm.

Tammie, who grew up in Kentucky, began showing at nine years old. First taking lessons at the Kentucky Belle Riding Academy, she remembers being taken by her mother, a Saddlebred enthusiast, to watch the Lexington Junior League show. Fortunate to live across the street from Jim B. Robertson, she began her show career under his watchful eye. She still remembers her first blue ribbon at a show in Orlando as if it were yesterday. "I cried and cried and I think there were tears in Jim B's eyes too, knowing how much it meant to me!" she recalled. This was a wonderful beginning to a successful show career that continued all the way through high school and college, when Tammie trained under the direction of both Sam and Marie Brannon and Don and Anne Judd, then into adulthood as a top amateur. After graduating from Centre College in Danville, KY and the University Of Kentucky College Of Law, Tammie was a practicing attorney for 10 years prior to becoming a professional horseman. She has never looked back or second guessed her decision. Now a well-respected judge and the President of the UPHA, her organizational, professional and horsemanship skills are a perfect match with John's expertise.

John describes his life as a trainer in three phases. "I was a trainer's son evolving from a kid to a young man. There is an advantage to growing up in the horse business but you have to prove yourself. The first step is gaining acceptance. After gaining acceptance you have to prove how good you really are, then later in your career you have to prove you can keep on doing it!" The first big step in gaining acceptance happened during John's first year as a full-time professional. Exhibiting for the first time at Louisville, he won the Three-Year Old Three-Gaited World's Championship with Belle Supreme GTR (BHF). This was the first in a remarkable winning series of ten three-year old three-gaited classes at the World's Championship Horse Show, a record of which John is supremely proud. Horses trained by John have also won eight Five-Gaited World's Champion of Champions titles, nine Amateur Gentlemen's Five-Gaited World Championships and three Ladies Five-Gaited World's Champion of Champions titles.



John and Tammie Conatser, consummate professionals, strive for excellence in everything they do. John Conatser, who will celebrate 58 consecutive years of attendance at the World's Championship show this year, was inducted into the World's Championship Hall of Fame in 2014.

After working with his father at Windermere Farm for a year, John moved to Grape Tree Farm in Kentucky, where he was responsible for training a group of great, young horses in addition to managing their breeding program. At Louisville that year he won his second consecutive Three-Year Old Three-Gaited World's Championship with Sensational Spirit, proving again that he had the talent to bring out the best in a young horse. Having gained the acceptance of his peers, he was well into the second phase of his career. Later on, John spent seven productive years at Seymour Stables in Georgia, owned by the Knox family, working with some of the top horses in the country and proving he could 'keep on doing it'. It was there that he experienced the thrill of a lifetime winning his first open world's championship in 1980 with Seymour's



Beginning her show career with Jim B. Robertson at nine years old, Tammie remembers her first blue ribbon as if it were yesterday saying, "I cried and cried and I think there were tears in Jim B's eyes too, knowing how much it meant to me." She won the 10 and Under Equitation at Orlando Charity riding Call Me Sensational.



John, a person with wide and varied interests, played in a Nashville band, 'The Esoterics', during high school and college.



A talented junior exhibitor, and later amateur rider, Tammie won three classes at the 1979 Kentucky State Fair with Social Raft under the direction of Jim B. and Jimmy Robertson.

Finest Hour in in the Three-Gaited Open Stake at Louisville. "I was just 29 years old and this horse was seven years old and in his first season. He came from nowhere to a blue ribbon and validated my existence. It's something I will always remember." After Seymour Stables closed, John moved to Bent Tree Farm in Virginia where he has great memories of winning five back to back championships at the American Royal in Kansas City as well as both the Harness Stake and Five Gaited Stake one year at Lexington Junior League.

Before Tammie and John became friends, she had met him on the show circuit and was well aware of his professional stature, but after she watched a transcendent performance with John aboard the great CH Shaman on the red shavings at Junior League, she was in awe both of John's ability and Shaman's extraordinary talent. She was re-introduced to John by Corky Robertson, wife of Walt Robertson and daughter-in-law of Jim B. Robertson. Coincidentally, Corky had been one of Tammie's teachers in her first job out of college and a long-time friend of John. First becoming friends, then significant others, John and Tammie have been together now for 26 years and married for 21 years.

After several years working for other people, John decided it was time to go in business for himself. He and Tammie first moved to a farm in Simpsonville, KY before locating to their current location on 60 acres in Nicholasville, KY. With a caretaker on the property, John and Tammie live a short distance away. Self-described 'home bodies', they take great pleasure in the simple things of life. Tammie loves to decorate, watch HGTV and read while John takes pride in keeping the landscaping perfect.

The Carriage Lane show string is small by design, with 21 stalls dedicated to the show horses and 8 more for the yearlings being started by Roberto Ramirez. John likes to work all of his own horses in a day that typically starts at 6 am and ends promptly at 6 pm. "My friends sometimes laugh about it," John told us, "But at 6 pm, I stop. Whatever is not done can wait. By 6:05 we are usually on the front porch having a cocktail."

This image of domestic tranquility may come as a surprise to those who know John only as the consummate professional – a man with very high standards for both himself and others. "If you know me only as a horseman, then you really don't know me," John told us. "I'm intense as a professional horseman but at home I'm much more carefree and laid back." Tammie agrees – describing John as 'extremely devoted and loyal; very intelligent and kind.'

Tracy observed, "He can get the most out of a horse of any trainer in the industry."

Known by her friends and clients for her positive attitude, Tammie literally sets a goal each day to be happy. "It doesn't always work out that way," she reflected, "But it's a good start."

We spoke to two of the Carriage Lane Farm amateur riders with very different backgrounds who have both been extraordinarily successful. They are Tracy Garcia, who began her show career as an adult and Gabe Deknatel, who began riding with John as a young boy. Tracy, of Stonegate Saddlebreds, chose to train at Carriage Lane Farm primarily because of the Conatsers' well-deserved reputation for pairing outstanding, game horses with amateur riders. Beginning her show career later in life, she needed to catch up with the amateurs who had been riding since they were very young. She has succeeded in spectacular fashion. Under John and Tammie's direction she won the 2005 Amateur Three-Gaited Over 15.2 World's Championship with CH That's Chicago and followed up with a 2006 World's Championship in Adult Three-Gaited Show Pleasure Division 3 with her once in a lifetime horse, For Reference Only. She is currently enjoying a great show season with Callaway's Kix in three-gaited show pleasure. With a limited number of horses in the Carriage Lane show string, Tracy receives the individual approach needed for a person who begins their show career as an adult.

John picked That's Chicago for Tracy after a five month search for the right horse. "One of the things that amazes me about John," Tracy observed, "Is that he can get the most out of a horse of any trainer in the industry. He worked on Chicago so that every ride I had improved dramatically from the last...I think the reason I grew so much over that winter as a rider is that John gave me confidence. He focused on teaching me how to show a horse. He didn't worry about my leg position, if my heels were down or how soft my seat was. If the horse looked good, that's all that mattered. For the first time I was focused on the horse, not on me!"

While Tracy has wonderful victory pass memories of her tenure at Carriage Lane Farm, she tells the story of a ride that did not go so well -- speaking volumes about John and Tammie's professionalism and character. "I remember the first time I showed Chicago was at Bonnie Blue. Our practice rides had been perfect and we were ready. That class, however, didn't go so well. And I came out of the ring so angry with myself for letting down Chicago and John. Tammie was so supportive with kind words of advice and encouragement. When we got back to the barn, however, I expected John to point out what I



John and Tammie Conatser enjoyed well-deserved time out in the Florida Keys.



Devoted University of Kentucky fans, John and Tammie were rooting for the Wildcats.

did wrong and how I should have handled the situation differently. Much to my surprise, that didn't happen. He sat me down and apologized profusely for not having my horse ready for me. He took the blame 100% and promised the issue I had would never happen again. I had never had a trainer take responsibility for a bad ride! I realized at that point we were a team – John, Tammie, me and my horse. By the way, that issue never arose again. We came back in our championship with a flawless ride and a unanimous win!" On a more personal note Tracy added, "There are so many things I appreciate about them. Their dedication to the horses, their clients and to the industry is incomparable. I trust them, I respect them and I love them like family."

Gabe Deknatel, who learned to ride as a young boy, is one of many outstanding 'elite' riders who have trained at Carriage Lane Farm and won multiple world titles under John's direction. They have included such notables as Nanci Knox, Karen Waldron, Ceil Wheeler and Catherine Loughlin. Gabe, who won the People's Choice Award for Amateur Five-Gaited Gentlemen, had an unbeaten show record in 2013 which included a world's championship victory pass with a unanimous vote of the judges. When we interviewed John at the time of this award he told us, "A great horse needs to be extremely game and talented. You need an elite rider and a consistent training program. You need all three...We have never dodged competition. We set the schedule at the beginning of the year and we stick to it."

Elizabeth Deknatel, Gabe's mother, has kept her High Hickory Farm show horses in training with Carriage Lane Farm for over 27 years. She remembers back to the time when Gabe and his sister trained with John as juvenile riders. Describing John as their mentor, she emphasized that he did not put winning first. He prioritized safety, followed by pleasure in the sport and skill development. "Winning is just a moment in time," she observed. "Preparation wasn't stressful; that's important. The goal is to do well – not the ribbon." Winning many titles as a junior rider, Gabe took a break while in college then returned to Carriage Lane Farm. With perfect timing, John and Tammie had just moved to Kentucky, within an easy commute of the Deknatel home.



This photo shows a much younger Gabe Deknatel, who rode with John as a juvenile. Now an 'elite' amateur rider, he has won multiple world titles under John's direction. He had an unbeaten show record in 2013, that included the Amateur Five-Gaited World's Champion of Champions title riding CH The Daily Lottery with a unanimous vote of the judges.

"When I was a junior exhibitor, Carriage Lane Farm was at the old Charles and Helen Crabtree farm in Simpsonville, Ky.," Gabe recalled. "I was a reasonably good, young rider but hadn't yet experienced anything like my new gaited horse, Range Rover. He was the strongest thing I had ever ridden. In an effort to get more comfortable and independent, John had me ride the horse every day over the summer. All we did was walk for 45 minutes before ever doing anything else. I would go all around the farm; just me and Range Rover – trail riding. It went a long way for both me and the horse to get comfortable with each other."

"John is more interested in creating a great amateur team than showing a horse himself," Gabe observed. "He thinks about each horse and rider combination and prepares a custom training plan for that pair. John can be demanding of me as a rider but not unrealistic. He wants me riding at my best, or pointing towards achievable improvements...Tammie stays very steady, patient and positive regardless of a particular result on any given day. If you have a bad ride or make a mistake in the show ring she knows in the long run things will come together. She doesn't get too wrapped up in a single moment; she keeps things positive and forward facing... They try to think about how any given rider is going to get along with their mount and prepare accordingly. John might hop on the horse with stirrups to the length of the amateur and put his hands in the spot where theirs will fall; just to get closer to experiencing the horse the way the rider will. They are perfectionists in the best possible way; thinking of everything possible to suit the rider."

Scooter Scheurich, son of Barbe Smith and Trainer at Cascade Stables, has known the Conatsers since he was a young junior exhibitor. Not only has Scooter received the best of professional mentoring, he views John and Tammie as family and they treat him like a son. Staying in their home while a summer intern, Scooter laughed about passing the critical test of being accepted by their beloved Australian Shepherd, Buddy, who is an equal family member. That summer was a special time in which Scooter not only learned everything he could about training and farm management from John and Tammie, he had the pleasure of listening to some of the old stories from John at home in the evenings.



Scooter Scheurich, son of Barbe Smith and Assistant Trainer/Instructor at Cascade Stables has received the best of professional mentoring from John and Tammie. They treat Scooter like a son and he views them as family.



Tammie loves spending 'hands on' time with the horses in her care. She is taking a stroll with WC Callaway's Little Dipper, dam of WC Evolution and accompanied by Buddy.

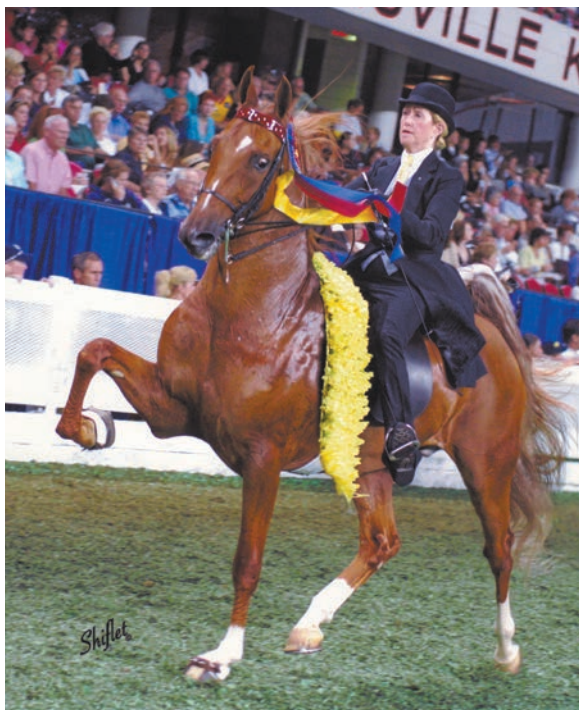
In thinking about what sets John apart as a trainer, Scooter described the pursuit of perfection and the extraordinary dedication John applies to achieve the desired results. "He takes his time and wants everything right the first time. There are no gimmicks like draw reins or a German martingale; he works every horse with a straight rein. He wants them at their best without forcing them." Scooter also noted the importance of Tammie's ability to observe, make suggestions and discuss progress. "He asks for her opinion and she helps him to be the perfect horse trainer."

Scooter remembers the thrill of seeing Gabe Deknatel winning the Amateur Five-Gaited World's Championship at Louisville that summer and the pleasure he took in watching John and Tammie getting more excited to see one of their horse and rider combinations win than if they had won an open championship themselves. Now applying what he learned at Carriage Lane Farm, Scooter often picks up the phone to ask John's advice which is given without reservation.

Tre Lee, a very talented young professional, who was honored with the UPHA Young Trainer of the Year Award in 2007, first became impressed with the quality and presentation of the Carriage Lane Farm horses when John would come to show every spring at Bonnie Blue. When Tre moved to Kentucky to work for John T. Jones, he got to know John (Conatser) when he bought CH Marching Orders and Coco Loco for his show string. "He was very interested to know how we worked the horses and what we did to prepare them for the show," Tre remembered. Tre and John talked frequently after those purchases. "I feel like I've known him forever," said Tre, who takes every opportunity to watch John work his horses both in and out of the show ring. "He's certainly been a mentor to me – everyone could learn by just watching him. I like the way he talks to people intelligently; he's very sharp. Whatever he does he puts 100% into it." Tre also emphasized Tammie's key role in supporting

John in a manner that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. "She's a big part of his success, that's for sure," he observed.

Many of the Carriage Lane clients, including Tracy Garcia, keep their mares and foals at Carriage Lane Farm with a view to showing and selling them later. Tracy has reaped the benefits of being both a show client and a breeder, saying, "I cannot imagine a safer and healthier upbringing for my babies than at Carriage Lane. My mares and babies are meticulously cared for and supervised at all times. During foaling season, John and Tammie personally stop by the barn every night before bed and check on



Swish, one of John and Tammie's favorite performers, was one of the most decorated five-gaited horses of his time, winning multiple world titles for his owner, Carol Hillenbrand. He is now retired to pasture at Carriage Lane Farm.

each mare and foal. Several years ago I would have lost a foal if not for their diligent supervision. She developed acute onset pneumonia which required immediate hospitalization. Had they not identified the problem during their evening check, it is certain she would not have survived the night."

Not only do the mares and foals receive excellent care, there is a great advantage in having them started as strong, healthy yearlings, then staying with the same trainer until they are ready for full-time training. Another big draw for Tracy is that Carriage Lane Farm offers a discounted training rate for horses raised at Carriage Lane Farm until they reach the point when they are being readied for the show ring. "This is a huge help to me as a small breeder and I love knowing my colts are getting expert training from day one...several of the clients breed and the majority of the horses in the barn are ones we raised and available for purchase. I would most definitely put them on the list if you are shopping for a new horse."

Each morning, Tammie is the 'outside person' who supervises everything that needs to be done in the barn as well as spending a significant amount of time with the mares and foals, a duty she clearly loves. She also acts as John's ground person, invaluable for her keen eye in discerning what is needed to maximize the performance of each individual. An experienced horse show judge, she is also able to recognize potential health or soundness issues before they become problems. "I have never in my life taken a horse into the ring with a disability," John averred. "Their health and soundness allows them to compete and succeed. It's easy to see what's right but not so easy to figure out what is wrong."

We asked both Tammie and John about their best memories of their life together at Carriage Lane Farm as well as some of their favorite horses. Tammie has a deep, emotional response to many of the shining moments and special horses that have been part of her life. "Sometimes I have been brought to tears by a performance," Tammie con-



A dream came true for Tammie recently when Amelia Heir Cat, pictured above with John winning the three-year old class at the American Royal, joined the broodmare band at Carriage Lane Farm



Callaway's Criterion, aka 'Crittter' was one of the first horses Tammie handled when she became a professional horseman. Shown with Paul Treiber above, he became a show ring star who earned a coveted World's Champion of Champions title in the five-gaited division.

fessed, looking back. A very special memory was when three of their horses won in the UPHA Classics at the American Royal in 2004. Coco Loco won the UPHA Fine Harness Classic Grand Championship and Heartland King of Kings won the UPHA Harness Pony Classic Grand Championship with John at whip, then CH Marching Orders won the UPHA Three-Gaited Classic Grand Championship with John in the irons.

While Tammie has a deep love for all of the horses that have been a part of her life, there are some that stand out as very special, primarily because she has spent a lot of 'hands on' time with them, getting to know them intimately. CH Callaway's Criterion (Crittter) was one of the first horses she trained in a professional capacity. She also groomed him, giving him plenty of attention and love while he was being prepared for the show ring. He became one of her all-time favorite horses and developed into a show ring star who earned a coveted World's Champion of Champions title in the five-gaited division.

Swish, named for the sound of a basketball going into a net without hitting the rim, and CH New York's Perfect Gift (Rudy) are retired to pasture at Carriage Lane Farm, enjoying the good life along with several pensioned broodmares. They were recently joined by Paco, a retired police horse. Like Critter, Swish was an amazing performer. A three time winner of the UPHA Amateur Five-Gaited Horse of the Year award, he was one of the most decorated five-gaited horses of his time, winning multiple world titles for his owner, Carol Hillenbrand. Rudy, his stablemate, who won world's titles as both a three and four-year old with John on board in 2005 and 2006, continued a stellar career in the ladies and amateur divisions with his owner, Betsy Thomas, until he retired from the show ring in 2013.

Spanky McFarland, also on Tammie's list of favorite horses from the day he was born,

is enjoying a wonderful career in the three-gaited division. CH EQ Coco Mojo, who was seriously ill as a foal and almost died before Tammie nursed him back to health, was the youngest horse ever to have won an equitation Triple Crown. At five years old he achieved this pinnacle of success with his human partner, Nick Maupin, in 2010. Tammie also noted CH League of Nations as 'spectacular' and 'one of a kind.' She also has a special love for that wonderful three-gaited pony, Amelia Heir Cat. It was literally a dream come true when Amelia recently retired from the show ring to join the Carriage Lane Farm brood mare band. She now has a fancy foal by her side who, not surprisingly, 'thinks a lot of himself.'

"I could name at least twenty horses that are really special," said John, not wanting to single out just one or two. There have been an unbelievable number... a lot of times what happens to you is an accident and I don't want to act like I'm the only

one who has trained a great horse. Once in a while someone will send you a Swish or a Criterion." While John is modest about his success, we also maintain that you make your own luck. He is undoubtedly one of the great trainers of his generation. Building a brilliant career since his first Louisville win in 1973, John Conatser was inducted into the World's Championship Hall of Fame in 2014. In the third phase of his career, defined by John as the time when you have to prove you can 'keep on doing it,' he is showing no signs of doing anything other than producing champions among both the horses and people who put their trust in him.

While the Carriage Lane Farm horses have won hundreds of championships at prestigious shows all over the country, we would be remiss in not mentioning their world's championship record. Since John began his professional career in 1973, he has trained a phenomenal number of winners including WGC Seymour's Finest Hour, WC Belle Supreme GTR, WC CH A Touch of Champagne, WC CH Natural Rights, WCC CH Zeberdee, WCC CH Shaman, WCC CH Seymour's Southern Heir, WCC CH Polo Town, WCC CH Marching Orders, WC CH New York's Perfect Gift, WCC CH The Phoenix SM, WCC CH Walterway's Remember Me, WCC CH Callaway's Criterion, WCC CH Swish, WC CH Callaway's Weatherman, WCC CH League of Nations, WCC CH Range Rover, WC CH In MY Heart, WC CH Just Special, WC Metro Heirea, WC Joe Friday, WCC CH Coco Loco, WC Undulata's Secret Rendezvous, WC Evolution, WCC CH The Daily Lottery, WC Rose Arbor's Moving Out and WC Rose Arbor Destiny. While the early victories were before John and Tammie met, she has been a huge factor in Carriage Lane Farm's success for more than 20 years.

While John has received one of the highest possible honors as a professional horseman, both he and Tammie are well-recognized for their



John and Tammie went 'incognito' at the 2015 UPHA convention in Savannah.



Undeclared in 2014, Rose Arbor Destiny earned a unanimous choice of the judges as the ASR National Futurity Three-Year Old Fine Harness World's Champion with John Conatser at whip then ended the season as the UPHA Fine Harness Classic Grand Champion (above).



John and Betsy Thomas accepted the Best in Show Award at the 65th. annual Midwest Charity event for WC CH New York's Perfect Gift. This award has also been presented to another Carriage Lane Farm star, CH The Daily Lottery.

support of the equine community. Tammie has assumed significant responsibility in support of her profession. She is passionate about her tenure as President of the UPHA. Formerly a Chapter Co-Chair, she was asked by the then UPHA President, James Nichols, to replace Renee Lavery, who retired after serving as Secretary for many years. This quickly led to her becoming a Vice President and then President. Tammie acknowledged she has been fortunate to have been mentored in her UPHA responsibilities by such notables as Bret Day, Gary Garone, Randy Harper and Jimmy Robertson as well as James Nichols; all of them past Presidents. Tammie has also found her knowledge of the law to be extremely useful in both support of the UPHA and in the day to day running of their business. "There is not a day when I'm not doing something for the UPHA," Tammie stated. One of her goals is to make sure that when she eventually leaves the Presidency, the organization will be in the best possible position to move forward into the future. Also very active in support of the UPHA, John chairs the UPHA Classic Committee as well as serving for the past 12 years on the Kentucky State Fair Advisory Committee.

Nancy and Bill Becker, well-respected members of the equine community, know John and Tammie very well. "Tammie and John are two extremely high-class individuals and Bill and I feel so very privileged to share a friendship with them," Nancy told us. As Director of Fundraising for the UPHA, she and Tammie work very closely together. "Tammie has the unique power to inspire people and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. She has championed the UPHA with her integrity, courage, determination and competitive spirit and she continues to move the organization forward as the leader of the entire horse show industry."

Like most equine professionals, John and Tammie stay extremely busy but they do take time out to have fun. Devoted fans of the University of Kentucky, they go to every sporting event they

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can, whether it be rooting for the Wildcats to win an NCAA championship or acting (in John's words) as suffering football fans. Having resurrected his passion for flying about four years ago, John has reinstated his pilot's license. Now he and Tammie



The Conatsers' beloved Australian Shepherd, Buddy, is a frequent traveler in their plane. A private pilot, John has rediscovered a passion for flying he developed while still in high school.

often fly to shows or just take trips for pleasure. The appeal of being in the air has much to do with the discipline and high professional standards upheld by his fellow pilots. "The freedom of flying is misconstrued," he explained. "There are so many regulations. When you fly you are working with professionals. People are typically well-educated and responsible. The stringent rules make it much more enjoyable than traveling by road." When Tammie and John are in the air, their much loved dog, Buddy, travels with them.

"Whether it's UK basketball or the Amateur Five-Gaited Championship, they are fully engaged," said Gabe Deknatel. "One thing that displays their professionalism, leadership and affinity for teaching is that they're willing to do any job at the barn. John will muck stalls, clean tack, or meticulously sweep the aisle. Tammie will rub or work horses, move mares and babies around, or entertain visitors. Whether it's to teach an employee how to do it, model good behavior or just get things done, they are both right there with all hands on deck."

Consummate professionals in everything they undertake, John and Tammie Conatser have achieved the pinnacle of success. They continue to produce superb horse and rider teams in every division, focusing on the unique needs of the individual. Each day is spent in the pursuit of excellence but when the work day is done, their home is a haven. Whether at the farm, at home, in the air or rooting for the University of Kentucky, John and Tammie live life to the fullest. Character, intelligence and integrity shine through in everything they do so that anyone lucky enough to be in training at Carriage Lane Farm will join them in the pursuit of excellence.