



# ROADSHOW STEPPIN OUT GCH

## STEPS OUT OF THE SHOW RING IN STYLE

BY KIM OPLOTNIK

*Editor's note: Roadshow Steppin Out GCH was officially retired on Tuesday, October 11 at the Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show:*

A memorable ceremony on Tuesday evening of the 2022 Morgan Grand National marked the official show ring retirement of the grand performer, Roadshow Steppin Out GCH. Owned, bred, and loved his entire life by the John Green family, this gelding carried three generations to world championship titles in a career spanning two decades, three divisions, and all under the Roadshow banner.

Roadshow Steppin Out was foaled at the 10 Star Ranch in 1997. He is the son of the world champion Atticus and signature Roadshow broodmare, Century Fancy Free. From the beginning "Step" was raised and guided by founding patriarch and amateur trainer, John Green. His junior career garnered regional in hand championship titles but in 2004 Step earned Grand National roses as the English Pleasure Amateur Reserve World Champion with John Green. In 2006, the pair claimed their first world championship in the English Pleasure Amateur Masters and culminated an undefeated season with a victory pass memorialized by John Green's raised fedora salute.

Daughter Jamie Green Willard remarked, "I really enjoyed Step learning and growing and being trained by my daddy. They were a team. It was very special to watch that relationship. Getting to have those reins passed to me was phenomenal." Jamie became the second generation of the Green family to take Step through the Gateway of Champions. Regional championship honors led to Grand National championship titles for these two in the English Pleasure division.

Next to take the reins was Jamie's daughter Mattie who, at the time, was in need of an equitation mount. Mattie remembers, "Our career together with equitation started a little bit spur of the moment due to my regular horse having an injury. Six weeks before Grand National we said, 'Let's go on Step.' It was equitation bootcamp for Step for six weeks. We did lots of patterns, and thank goodness for wonderful people like Cindy Mugnier, my mom, my dad, and then of course my grandfather who knows Step so well. All of those people came together and that's what was

able to create the equitation horse that he was for a short period of his life, and I'll tell you this, he doesn't miss it!" Mattie and Step were the 2013 UPHA Morgan Senior Challenge Cup Champions and Reserve World Senior Saddle Seat Equitation Champions.

Retirement was next on the agenda for Step, but he wasn't having it. Being left out of the training string caused him stress that developed and progressed into colic laminitis. "He recovered completely from that episode of post colic laminitis and post-surgical laminitis, which many horses don't. And at that point the plan was for him to recover so he could live out the rest of his life as a retired horse. But he had different ideas. Actually, he made the decision on that," said son-in-law and Step's lifelong veterinarian, Bob Willard.





Fast-forward to 2021, Roadshow Steppin Out added two more titles to his storied career the Classic Pleasure Saddle Ladies World Championship and Grand National Classic Pleasure Saddle Ladies Geldings Championship with Jamie back in the saddle. Current Roadshow trainer Ryne Swope remarked upon Step's resiliency, "Coming back after some traumatic health issues to win a world championship at the age of 24 in the deepest of competition is truly amazing. It really speaks to him as far as his heart and his drive to do what he was truly made to do."

Throughout his career he "truly engaged with so many different members of our family. Everybody from my daddy, to me, to my son Tatum, to my daughter Mattie, to my niece Sarah. And he gave each of us everything he had," Jamie shared.

Jamie Willard and daughter Mattie shared rides aboard Roadshow Steppin Out GCH for his final presentation in the coliseum. Step, Jamie and Mattie were joined by John and Georgie Green; Bob Willard, Tatum and wife Katelyn Willard; Gina, John, Sarah, and Molly Pruetz; as well as trainer Ryne Swope and caretaker Manuel Alvarez in center ring as the crowd gave a standing ovation. Five of Step's six riders walked him out with a blanket of roses, pausing at the end for his first partner, John Green, to give one last salute to the crowd.

