

The Man Behind The Smile

Bob Moseder

by Bob Funkhouser • photos by Shane Shiflet

Many in the show horse industry can't think of a time when Bob Moseder wasn't taking pictures of their beloved Saddlebreds, Morgans and Hackneys. This past week many posted their favorite pictures on Facebook in honor of the man they called their friend and one of the top photographers in the show ring; a man who always had a smile and kind word for the many members of his extended horse family. Moseder succumbed to pancreatic cancer Monday, March 16 at home with his wife Jean and daughter Barbara by his side.

A longtime Florida resident, Moseder fell in love with photography at the age of 15. He went on to serve his country in the Army before coming home to work as a freelance photographer. Some of his work, including a shot of Castro, was sold to and published in the New York Times.

"He was working for a newspaper that sent him out to take pictures at a horse show and that's when he decided that's what he wanted to do," said Jean Moseder. "He started in 1969 shooting Welsh ponies and he has photographed several breeds since then throughout his career."

Moseder gravitated to the Morgan and Saddlebred/Hackney shows and quickly became a fan favorite, especially in the Northeast. "W. Springfield [Massachusetts] was our second home. Our kids grew up there," added Jean.

Moseder was the preeminent Morgan photographer, an early official at the Morgan Grand National. He shot the famed New England Morgan Horse Regional for more than 40 years and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2011. He was the official photographer of the National Horse Show in Madison Square Garden. He shot the UPHA Chapter 14 Spring Premiere for more than 30 years. Mass Morgan, Eastern States, and Ct. Summer Classic were other W. Springfield shows on his schedule. Deerfield Fair, Syracuse, Devon, Granite State, Citrus Cup, Raleigh Spring, Mid-A, and Harvest Days were among the shows where he captured lasting memories for exhibitors of all levels.

"He was a great guy to work with," said trainer and horse show manager John Lampropoulos. "He and Jean were a great family, they were friendly to everybody. As a photographer for your show Bob would do anything that was asked of him. He was a great team player."

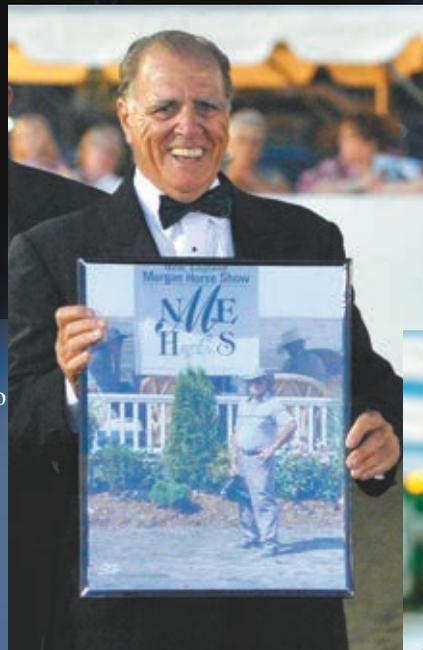
In addition to his big smile, Moseder was known for working the ring to get that great shot. His effort was greatly appreciated by all, as was the service his wife Jean gave at the proof table. They were a team, spending their lives on the road serving the needs of exhibitors and the publications that covered the industry.

"There was a running joke at New England with all the judges and officials that Bob would run circles around me like he was 20 years old," said Shane Shiflet who shot the show for several years with Bob. "He was a master of that ring at Northampton. He wanted to get a great picture of every horse in every class. He was so conscientious to make every customer happy. Also, for a guy his age he was extremely technical minded. He was way ahead of his time when it came to digital photography."

"All Bob cared about other than his family and fishing was horse shows. Even on his deathbed he was worried about his upcoming shows. He inspired me with how hard he worked at it. I think he would have shot horse shows if he didn't make a dime. He loved the people."

Never a man to live life large, he was the same way in death. "He wanted everything simple," said Jean. "His wishes were to be cremated and his ashes spread on the beach at the edge of the water right down from our house."

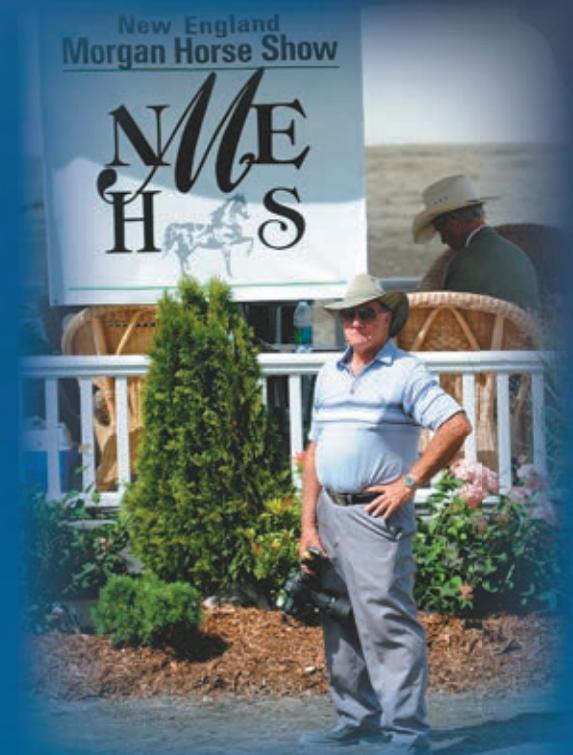
Jean, Barbara and a son, Tom as well as four sisters and a brother survive Moseder. Anyone wishing to send cards may do so to the following: Jean Moseder, 43 Mala Compra Rd., Palm Coast, FL 32137. The family asks that any memorial be made to Florida Hospital Hospice, 770 W. Granada Blvd, Suite 304, Ormand Beach, FL 32174, (386) 671-2138, www.floridahospitalhospice.org.



The man behind the camera was a great friend to show officials and exhibitors alike, including ringmaster Grace Yagalou.



In 2011, then show manager Fred Nava presented Bob and Jean Moseder with induction into the New England Morgan Horse Show Hall of Fame.



Bob was a longtime fixture at many top shows, including more than 40 years at New England Morgan.