

# CHUCK HERBERT: One Of The Good Guys

BY ANN BULLARD



*The Cedarwood Team had a great show at Louisville last year. Danelle, Julie Reenbanks, owner of CH It's Good Karma, Chuck, Nancy and Caleb celebrated.*

Nice guys finish ... first. At least that's the case with Cedarwood Farm's Chuck Herbert. Not only is he a consummate professional horseman with numerous world's titles to his and his clients' credits, but he is a sought-after judge, family man – and an overall good guy.

As a youngster, Chuck wasn't the one enamored with horses. Rather, it was his two-years-older sister, the late Shelley Mehling, who first moved into the equestrian world.

"In grade school, Shelley either wanted to take riding or saxophone lessons. The saxophone cost \$100 ... and Shelley couldn't carry a tune in a bucket. Dad had the great idea to tell her to take her choice: she chose riding lessons," Chuck said, laughing at his father's idea that horses would be less expensive than music lessons.

He explained, "We lived in Indianapolis at the time and rode at Armstrong Stables. When Dad was transferred to Evansville, we began to ride with Armon Effinger and his sister, Linda Wedel, at their Lin-Mar Stables. Not long after we started there, Armon went to work for Fritz [the late Fritz Jordan] and Linda ran the thing herself. Shelley and I had a grade-kind of horse that we showed."

Both sister and brother became immersed in horses, particularly Saddlebreds. Virgil Helm's father, Garland, operated a barn in Evansville; Chuck and Shelly rode there. Chuck worked for Mr. Helm for a couple of summers during high school. After she finished high school, Shelley headed to William Woods.

While home from college one weekend, "Shelley talked about teaching. I told her I was thinking about training horses. Dad told us, 'That's good, but you need a college degree to fall back on when it doesn't work out. You have to have a way to make a living,'" Chuck recalled.

He pursued a degree in veterinary technology at Purdue University. It's training that has served him well in his chosen career. After graduation, Shelley taught briefly for L.D. Richardson (Mike Richardson's father). Shelley soon came home where there were two lesson horses and an outdoor arena. Meanwhile, Chuck finished college and began working with Armon, where he remained for three years.

"Shelley started a lesson program here; when her clients decided to buy a horse, I decided to come home. We thought we could make it; it took a while, but we did," he said.

Chuck and Nancy Herbert's story is like something from a television show – of the 1950s or '60s. They began dating in high school, and, as Nancy put it "have been together ever since. Obviously, I love him to death; we've been married for 37 years."

Horse trainers' wives have to face many challenges: long, often uncertain hours, her husband's heavy travel schedule, 24-hours on-call. Nancy faces one more.

"We went to a horse show on one of our first dates," Nancy said. "I wondered 'what the heck is this!' When I got home my eyes were itchy ... I found out I was allergic to horses."

Nancy may have been allergic to horses, but that wasn't enough to discourage her and Chuck's romance. Instead, she encouraged her husband on every step along his career, and has raised two children, both of whom remain deeply immersed in the saddle horse world.

"I love the horses, although I am a little afraid at times," she said. "The kids totally laugh [at that.] This is a crazy business. It took me a long time to understand it; I wasn't getting the whole concept.

"When Chuck started this business, my dad told my aunts, 'I'm going to give Chuck two years. Then he has to get a real job,'" Nancy recalled.

"We were poor for a very long time. We had a little house when we first married. I bought wallpaper and Kleenex boxes to match," she said, explaining she was used to things like that. "He came home and said, 'Oh, no, you have to take it all back.'"

She paraphrased the conversation that followed. "Even the Kleenex boxes?" He said yes, and I asked why."

"Nancy, we have no money."

"Yes we do, look at our savings account.' He had to sit down and explain to me what was going on. I took everything back and told Chuck, 'You know what, we're going to do this together.' If we starve ... it is what it is."



*In the beginning, Chuck and his sister, Shelley, ran the entire Cedarwood operation.*





**Chuck and Nancy, Shelley and her husband, Bob Mehling, enjoyed one another's company whether at the barn or elsewhere.**

While Chuck and Shelley were getting the horse business underway, Nancy worked in the 'real world.' Trained as a secretary, today she also is assistant property manager for 18 different retail centers throughout the country.

Cedarwood Farm began in the four-stall barn at the senior Herberts' place. As the business grew, the team added stalls, an indoor work area and the other amenities required to run a successful show horse operation, particularly in colder climates. While work crews came in on occasion, Chuck and Caleb did most of the work on the present facility, which houses 42 horses and ponies.

As Nancy put it, "It has been a journey."

The journey began with Shelley and Chuck. She ran the lesson program while Chuck did most of the training and showing.



**When Caleb isn't working at the barn, he works as a volunteer fireman.**

"She always pushed me to the front," Chuck said of his sister. "Making sure I got the exposure was her kind of thing. She loved to teach the riding lessons and the equitation part of it."

Early successes came with Joan Morley and her children. Jimmy Morley showed the roadster pony Light Speed. His sisters Darlene and Janet brought such horses as Harvard and Wise and Wonderful to winners' circles.

They were the first. Kara Hobbs soon made headlines in 1982 as a Reserve World's Champion in 10 and Under Equitation; the eight-year-old was the youngest to make Top Ten in the UPHA 10 and Under Finals in 1983.

Also among the early students were the twin sisters Linda and Lisa Mehling. Their brother, Bob, came along with them. He and Shelley began dating; they married in 1980.

Students and new clients continued to join the Cedarwood team. In 1993, Chuck selected the 1991 Show Pleasure World's Champion of Champions CH Texas Fiesta for Shanna McLean. Two years later, the team posted their first world's champion as Shanna won the Three-Gaited Show Pleasure 15-17 Championship.

Multi-decade relationships are far from the norm in the saddle horse world. Yet long-term relationships are far from unusual with the Cedarwood Family. Susan and Jeff Bartlett and their daughter, Katie Pagan and son T.J., moved to Cedarwood in the fall of 1994. Their successful relationship encompasses everything from pleasure driving ponies to saddle seat performance and fine harness. While Katie Bartlett continued her equitation career with Jennifer Michelle, she also rode with Chuck.



**Susan Bartlett is one of the longest-tenured of the Cedarwood clients. She and CH Preferred American lit up the show ring through the mid-1970s.**

"We brought Katie's horse straight from the Kentucky Fall Classic to Chuck's barn," Susan Bartlett said. "That winter, he put me behind a horse and taught me to drive. I'm sure he regrets it occasionally ... especially when he wants to show and I say, 'No, it's my horse.'"

The following spring, Jeff, Susan and Chuck hopped on an airplane and flew to Minnesota to look at a horse for Susan. Jeff Priebe had shown the flashy Preferred American in three-gaited competition.

"He had such a reputation under saddle," Chuck said, pointing out one occasion on which the gelding walked the straightaway on his hind legs. "Everyone thought we'd lost our minds when we bought him. He was the first expensive horse Jeff bought.

"Jeff said, 'God, I can't believe I spent that much money for a horse.' I said, 'Hell, Jeff, I'm just beginning to spend your money,'" Chuck said, laughing at the memory. "He looked at me ... I don't believe he realized how true a statement that was."

Chuck looked back on those early days. They brought Preferred American out at UPHA Chapter Five. "When we came in the ring pulling a buggy, people were expecting him to do something like jump out."

Instead they tied reserve in the Open Fine Harness qualifier. Susan came back to win the reserve grand championship on Saturday night. In August, Chuck drove Preferred American to the first of his three consecutive Kentucky County Fair Championship titles.





*Kelsey Herbert showed Heartland Parade Time for her brother, Caleb. In 2004, they won the AHHS Youth Medallion National Championship Hackney Pleasure Driving Pony Championship at the American Royal.*



*Chuck and Glenview's Excelante! were the talk of Louisville in 2007. They won the ASR National Three-Year-Old Three-Gaited Futurity; on Saturday night they were crowned Reserve World's Grand Champions.*

Susan and her gelding continued making headlines. Chuck laughed about the late Lonnie Lavery's comment.

"When Susan won a class at the Kentucky Fall Classic, Lonnie told me, 'Chuck, you know if you keep letting that horse be that nice, you'll never sell them another one.'"

Fortunately, Jeff Bartlett didn't think that way. He was no stranger to the saddle horse world; his parents, T.J. and Dorothy Bartlett, raised Saddlebreds in the late 1960s and '70s. Dorothy Bartlett and her husband not only owned the stallion, Starheart Victory, but she showed him as well. Jeff was behind his wife, daughter and son in every way.

"T.J. got into showing because he had to go to shows and to the barn with Katie when she had lessons. I couldn't leave him by himself," Susan said frankly. "He figured he could make money showing ponies while Katie couldn't win money in equitation. He helped Chuck cut down on his cussing. Every time he heard a curse word out of Chuck's mouth, he would say 'give me a quarter.'"

The family purchased Governor Casey for T.J. to show in Hackney/Harness Pony Pleasure Driving. The young man did well with driving.

"Susan was adamant that T.J. was going to ride this pony," Chuck said. "It turned him upside down and inside out; practicing went from bad to worse. I told him, 'Come on, let's go talk to your Mom. I think that was the most thankful he ever was with something I did for him.'

The next idea was for Katie to show Governor Casey under saddle. The results were a good example of Chuck's sense of humor.

"Katie was practicing and Chuck decided to light the pony up a bit," Susan recalled. "He flicked a lighter and the pony stopped dead still. She looked like a monkey hanging on his neck. Chuck asked if she were OK, and then they laughed. He has a sense of humor when it's appropriate, but he makes sure you're all right before he laughs at you."

Susan says one of Chuck's strongest attributes is his sense of humor.

Susan endured a similar situation. "I was in a driving lesson with Preferred American, and Chuck hadn't drug the practice ring that day. I got bumped out of the jog cart between the cart and the back of the horse. The horse stopped; I was standing there. Chuck asked if I was OK. When I said yes he started laughing so hard he was on his knees."

Such incidents didn't damage the Bartlett/Herbert relationship. They purchased Manchado's Sassy Lass for Katie's pleasure equitation mount. Callaway's After The Storm replaced Preferred American as Susan's harness horse. In 2002, they purchased CH Harlem's Santa Fe.

"I showed her for 10 years," Susan said, adding "If it ain't broke, don't fix it. She and I had a good time together."

Today, Harlem's Santa Fe is at Redwing Farm with a Designed baby by her side. Susan is showing WS Call Me Catty while Katie, now married with a daughter of her own is back in the saddle for three-gaited park competition aboard the Designed son, Ralph Lauren Style.

One of Chuck's first 'big time horses' Face Forward, is a full sister to CH Face Card. Frances Denney purchased her as a yearling, and turned her over to the Cedarwood team. He says she was the one that really got them started. They debuted in 1994; for the next five years they remained in top ribbons from Kentucky and Indiana to Kansas City.



Susan recalled one memorable performance at Lexington Junior League; it was a prime example of Chuck's determination. "Chuck was getting ready to show. They were standing on the asphalt between the barns. That mare went up in the air with all four legs. Chuck came down and hit his head. We asked if he was OK and his answer, 'is my head bleeding.' He got back on the horse and showed. I think at the end of the class, John Biggins told him he did have blood running down the back of his head."

Cedarwood was running well, with Chuck training and Shelley teaching when the group went to the Kentucky Spring Premier Horse Show the first weekend in May 2001. Susan tells the story.

"Shelley was hurting pretty badly. We thought it was her gallbladder. She went to the hospital up there and they found colon cancer. She died during Junior League a few months later," Susan said. "That rocked Chuck's world."

"Shelley was my rock," Nancy said. "She helped me understand all this. When we lost her, I was worried about Chuck. He wanted to give up. I said, 'We are not. We're not stopping this journey.' It was so fast it was unbelievable. We didn't even have time to ..." she paused. "Kelsey, both the kids were so close to Shelley. You don't get over it, but you do get through it. You pick yourself up and go on."

Having good help is a key to success in the show horse world. Chuck has raised his own ... or at least some of them. His son, Caleb, has been assistant trainer for nine years. His daughter, Kelsey, handled the bookwork for several years until the birth of her daughter, Zadie. She still helps out when she can.

While both Caleb and Kelsey rode as youngsters, they were better known for their proficiency with ponies.

"That's how I got started," Caleb said, adding "Dad and I did the pony work together. I'm learning the trade of training horses."

"I was born into this; I decided to follow Dad into the family business," Caleb said "I enjoy working for him. They say it's probably hardest to work for family but he and I get along very well. I'll be thinking of something and he'll say it before I can."

Not only does Caleb do most of the jogging and colt work, he's in charge of maintenance on the farm. In his spare time, the 30-year-old is a volunteer fire-fighter.

"Sometimes it's hard for Caleb and me for me to be his boss and his dad too. I'm harder on him than anyone else," Chuck conceded. "I count on him so much and enjoy every moment with him."

Kelsey showed several of the ponies Caleb trained. The most prominent: Heartland Showboat and Heartland Parade Time. Kelsey introduced Heartland Showboat to the show ring in 2008. They posted a good record their first year, including winning the UPHA Hackney Pleasure Driving Pony Classic at Midwest and a third place tie in Louisville's Adult Amateur Junior Hackney Pleasure Driving Pony competition. The following year they won the world's championship.

Caleb trained and initially showed Heartland Parade Time. Kelsey took over the lines after Louisville in 2002. By Kansas City the following year, they were a well-seasoned pair.

Nancy tells the story of the AHHS Youth Medalion National Championship Hackney Pleasure Driving Pony class that will remain part of family lore to eternity. "Chuck couldn't be down in the ring with her



*Nancy and Chuck purchased their first horse together in 2012. Chuck showed Dark Vanilla to a Two-Year-Old Three-Gaited Reserve World's Championship.*



*Fishing is a hobby Chuck, Roy Werner, Caleb and the rest of the Herbert family enjoy. They try to make a trip to Canada every year. He and Nancy show off a nice catch.*

because he was getting ready to show Harlem's Santa Fe. So he had Rich Campbell helping Kelsey. They had announced that Kelsey had won.

"First thing that came to Kelsey's mind was that her dad was not there to see her win the national title, but low and behold ... Chuck jumped out of the harness cart, ran down the chute and ran to Kelsey to celebrate! Kelsey was so excited; her victory pass was so cool! She was smiling from ear to ear for the win and that her dad jumped out of the cart to be with her. That is Kelsey's wonderful memory and tells the true relationship they have as a dad and daughter."

"It was a lot of fun growing up there," says Kelsey. "I thought it was normal to have a farm full of horses; I thought they were all mine. I probably was four when I started riding; Shelley was my instructor."

"Shelley made me water at the barn. I tried to get out of it by saying I couldn't see, so she would get me a step-stool."

"I'm proud of my dad for how far he's made it," she said, "and especially after Shelley passed away. Caleb, Dad and Rick (his best friend) did most of the remodeling on the barn. This is a family affair and always has been. When I was little, on a busy day he would say, 'I'm going to quit and become a Wal-Mart greeter.' I'd cry; I thought he was serious. Being a trainer's kid is not easy; there's no easy part about it but I'm proud to say 'That's my Dad.'"

Danelle Howser grew up riding Saddlebreds in the Evansville area. As she says, "Cedarwood has always been part of my life." She has worked there for four years, runs the lesson program and takes care of a string of horses.

Danielle taught Academy for Rick and Brittany Peel until they left Evansville. She later worked for Tammy Adams (Terry Chancellor's sister) where she learned more about the performance side of the business. Today she is second assistant trainer and the Cedarwood instructor.

Danielle's day begins at 7 a.m., when she helps feed horses. While others are cleaning stalls, she works her string of horses for Chuck.

"We work horses until lunch and again until about 4 p.m. when I begin teaching; I quit about 6:30 or 7," she said.

"Chuck is a wonderful person and really cool. We each have a string and can ask each other questions or to take over one of our horses. We do a lot of young horses. It's very good for me to know he never is going to put me in a situation where I will be hurt. Of course, there's always that chance, but I have a very trusting relationship with him."

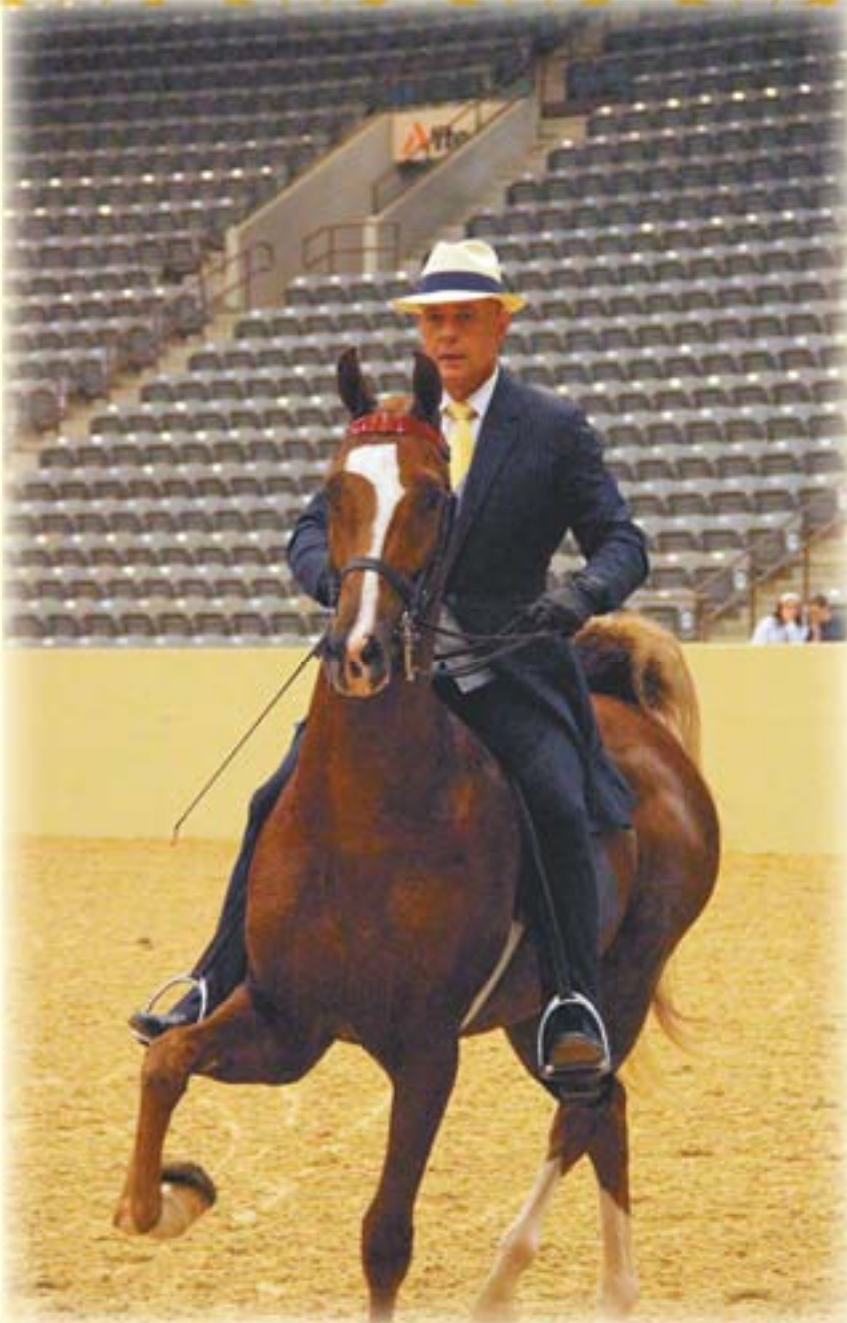
"When I got this opportunity, I thought 'this is where I'm meant to be. These are wonderful people who truly love their horses. It's amazing to watch Chuck work with young horses. He can take a baby that's never lunged; it will fight a minute and then lunge both ways. I know I'm learning the proper way to start a colt," she said. "There's not a better place I could have gone to learn. Sometimes he has to count to 10 and walk away if he's flustered. There are times he has to step in. He's the boss and one of my favorites."

Chuck says Danielle and Caleb's youthful enthusiasm "keeps me right up there, too. We have a monthly staff meeting. It's enjoyable to sit and talk about each horse, where we think one is going to be before our next meeting. It's been fun to watch those two learn and interject. They have definite opinions on different horses and what they need to do. I trust them and their opinions."

Caleb's statement that "we've had some nice horses the past few years" is something of an understatement. With clients like Judy and Roy Werner of Redwing Farm, Ed Elliott and the Bartletts sending young horses and a nice group of clients with horses to show, they've had nice horses for several seasons.

The Werners have watched the Cedarwood ascension from near and afar. Judy says they have been sending him youngsters for at least 12 years. Chuck has done well both in bringing the colts along and getting them sold.





*Chuck made headlines with Macadamia at the Kentucky Fall Classic. He stepped in when his good friend John Biggins was unable to compete.*

“Chuck always has a nice string of Designed horses,” she said, adding “he’s been working families from mares influenced by Radiant Sultan. He has had all of those offspring.

“My needs are a little bit different than someone with an amateur horse; from me, a horse is right out of the pasture. It can lead, has had its shots and isn’t wormy. It takes special people to take that raw product, get it ready for the ring and do it properly.

“Tall as Chuck is, he still looks good on a young horse. He started running as an exercise when he had Excelante! He didn’t want to be in any physical shape that would take away from that horse. When Excelante! was three and missed winning the Three-Gaited Grand Championship by one vote, Chuck was so humble, so appreciative of the horse. It was fun to see.”

Chuck’s ability to communicate with his customers is one of his traits she values most. That is particularly important as she doesn’t get to Evansville as much as she might like. She “relies on his being as honest as he can be besides being a good horseman.”

Judy has many memories of her days with the Herberts. Certainly the number of winners they have fielded and the horses he has sold for her rank up there. But she says her favorite recent memory is the birth of his granddaughter, Zadie.

“I don’t think he quite realized how being a grandfather grabs you,” she said. “I told him he needs to keep on training so he can put her on a horse.”

Ed Elliott and his late brother, Tom, got into Saddlebreds about 10 years ago. Their father had been in the Standardbred world.

“Tom and I were about ready to reenter the Standardbred field with some of our father’s old trainers’ sons around Ontario

and Detroit when a friend introduced us to the show circuit,” Elliott said. “Tom had met Chuck through some of our Canadian contacts. Somehow we got together for a show. I was going to be in St. Louis for a business trip; he was looking at young horses. We decided to go together and looked at a horse. It was very well-poised for a young gelding. Tom looked at him and we decided to put together a little program.”

In June, 2006, Elliott and Martha T. Schriver purchased the two-year-old fine harness horse, Glenview’s Excelante! from the Werners and sent the bay gelding to Chuck. A little more than two months later, Chuck drove him to win the ASR Two-Year-Old Fine Harness Futurity and a \$14,512.23 payday. The following April, Chuck rode the three-year-old to win the UPHA Classic at River Ridge. They repeated the win at Midwest before heading to Louisville for the ASR National Three-Year-Old Three-Gaited Futurity. On Monday night, the judges voted them the best of 12 in the ASR National Three-Year-Old Futurity. Saturday evening, they were tied Three-Gaited Reserve World’s Grand Champions. In October, Charles Goodman added Excelante! to his family’s outstanding show string.

‘Excel’ was the first of the Elliotts’ winners with Cedarwood. He was far from the last. In 2008, Designer Chocolate won the Two-Year-Old Fine Harness Mares World’s Championship and Dressedfortheparty won the ASR Kentucky Futurity Two-Year-Old Fine Harness title. The following year, Nuttin’ To Lose drove off with the ASR Kentucky Futurity Two-Year-Old Fine Harness Championship for the Elliotts.

“I have the desire, but am not a physical horseman,” Elliott said. “Chuck has been absolutely solid. I think the way he approaches each and every candidate ... we sit down and talk about a plan to bring them forward. That’s not only what is best for the horse and its skills, but he doesn’t try and stretch them at any one point in time. In the Standardbred industry, they work the horses to death. The Saddlebred world is a little more gentle for both the human and the animal. Trainers, particularly Chuck’s, attitude is that we have this athlete. How do we get him to work to his prime without doing injury either to that animal or to my wallet.

“Caleb has worked very closely with Chuck; He’s very supportive, a good, a dedicated fellow to have in the barn. The whole family is like that.”

Elliott’s latest project: Arrowhead’s Up All Night, a two year old colt by the Callaway’s Blue Norther son, Wine, Women and Song, and out of Supremacy’s Worthy Star that he recently purchased from Melinda Moore.



*Chuck easily can be described as a ‘doting grandfather.’ He and Nancy spend as much time as they can with Jessie, Kelsey and baby Zadie.*



If you want to know about a trainer, asking his clients is obvious. Talking with someone who has purchased a horse but has it with someone else can elicit different opinions. Not so in the case of Chuck and Lisa Holt. In the summer of 2010, she purchased the Park Horse, Nuttin' To Lose (Rue), from the Elliott brothers.

"The best part of buying him was getting to know Chuck and Nancy. Rue is a fabulous horse, Chuck and Nancy make it even more special. When I bought this horse, I also inherited this wonderful core group, cheerleaders. Chuck has been a sounding board. If I were at a show they weren't attending, I'd get a text from them.

"Chuck and Nancy are the most normal horse trainers we know. They're devoted to family, friends and to the horse community and they're the loveliest couple with one another. You don't just buy a horse and go about your business. With Chuck, we got caring and input about the horse we bought. He exemplifies what a true friend is and takes the time to be that kind of person. Nancy is right there by him giving genuine generosity and kindness, with time and support. At end of the day the most important thing is that his reputation precedes him; if you're a friend, a client, whatever he will give you everything he can."

Even if he has to tell clients something they don't want to hear, Chuck's honesty impresses them. One such is Heidi Dunnaway, who brought a three-year-old gelding to Chuck to be started under saddle.

"He was there for six weeks when Chuck called and said, 'I don't think this is a saddle seat horse. The horse is not built for it; find him another job.' I thought having a trainer call me after a month or so to say 'I don't want to keep your horse as he is not the kind of horse I can train' was very impressive. He was so honest; basically he told me my baby was ugly. That honesty is what sold me on him."

As a surgeon, Heidi has limited 'free' time. Yet she drives three hours to ride with Cedarwood. She says Danielle and Chuck continue to work hard with her to get her ready to show. This spring, she made her Country Pleasure debut on her newest mount, with Reserve World's Champion South Street.

Talk with Joni Underwood Friesen, Julie Greenbanks or Carolyn Moore Miller. The words may be different, but the melody is the same.

Miller says she had been trying to put a horse with Chuck for ten years until he had room four years ago. She says her Designer Quality, a three-quarter brother to Excelante!, is game and athletic and is happy flat walking. He is one of several horses in training at Cedarwood.

"I think two of Chuck's most under-appreciated talents are his ability to put a beautiful canter on a horse, which makes the horse wear the bridle better, and that he is an excellent coach. I didn't realize that prior to having horses with him. I knew about his horsemanship, but he really is an excellent coach, the best I have ever had.

Julie Greenbanks joined the Cedarwood family when her daughter, Courtney, was seven, about 13 years ago. Julie had limited her participation to being a horse show mom until her daughter convinced Chuck to teach Julie to drive.

"He asked if I would like to take a ride with him behind a pony," Julie said. "I didn't fall out. Chuck was gracious and asked if I would like to come back next week. He put me behind a big, old horse I couldn't see around. Chuck had confidence and believed in me. In a

month, we found Karma [In Good Karma.] We started training in January and did our first show at Cloverdale. We won!"

Joni Underwood Friesen initially came to Cedarwood about four years ago. Her first horse was the amateur five-gaited mare, Betsey Johnson. Today she has the three-year-old A Woman Of Design and four-year-old Ridin' The Storm Out in training.

Why Chuck?

"We've been friends for a long time; my kids used to ride with his. We were looking for a new circuit and liked the Cedarwood environment. It's family-oriented and Chuck is really good at getting amateurs in the ring. And he's very, very good with younger horses. He really cares about getting amateurs in the ring and getting the team ready to show. He has a lot of really fun, nice clients."

The same story resonates throughout his clients. They trust him, and with good reason. A case in point



**Chuck got to show Macadamia but twice. Their last show: a unanimous win in the UPHA Three Gaited Classic Grand Championship at the 2013 UPHA/American Royal.**



**Chuck and Nancy ... at the end of the day, their mutual love and respect trumps all.**

is the flashy Macadamia, who caught everyone's eye at the Royal last fall. When his close friend, John Biggins, was unable to show the colt at the Kentucky Fall Classic, Chuck stepped up ... and won the UPHA Classic class. The colt was for sale.

"A new client was talking about buying a prospect. She had seen a horse that belonged to Mr. Elliott that she liked, but it was sold. I sent her a picture and Facebook message saying, 'If you're still looking, this is a horse you need to buy.' She did. She never saw him and didn't get to see him show. We sold him Saturday night at Kansas City," he said.

"She owned him for about three weeks, and never saw her horse," Chuck said.

Chuck is optimistic about many things. He says he has the best group of young horses that he has ever had. In that, he's very blessed.

He smiles when he speaks of his granddaughter. "Nancy and I have more fun with her. She's such a special little girl, with all the personality in the world. When I was judging Pin Oak, someone asked about her. I said, let me show you the video; when he tried to hand it back, I said, no, there's more! Danielle and Kelsey already are planning her first riding lesson."

Chuck gives back to the industry in many ways. Judging is one. He is a member of the ASHA Board and past-president of the UPHA. As a current member of the USEF Licensed Officials committee, Saddlebred Committee and Saddlebred Finance Committee, he has a better insight than many into the state of the industry.

"I have had my concerns the past few years," he said frankly. "The economy hit us hard, but in the same breath it provided some adjustments that we needed. I think the general public is coming back. We're coming off two of the hardest years we've had, but things across the country are more positive than they were. The Saddlebred Association is working very hard on marketing strategy; Allen Bosworth has done an amazing job. The UPHA is as strong an organization as it's ever been.

"I feel real good about it. A couple of years ago, I wasn't so sure. I think people are more positive about the whole business. Horse people are a funny group anyway. I've had clients who aren't extremely wealthy who have found money to be in the horse business because it's what they wanted to do. It gets in their blood. Now we're getting the second generation."

Chuck gives back to the industry – and to individuals. If a fellow-trainer has problems, Chuck is one of the first they can call. He's always available for consultation, for advice.

"I get a lot of phone calls from young trainers asking questions. When I grew up, those guys didn't share; if you walked up and asked a question, often you wouldn't get an answer. Today a lot of guys are willing to talk horse training and share ideas."

But Chuck's main focus is on his family, his horses and his clients. Rarely does he spend a day away from the barn, although it 'officially' is closed on Sundays. He does take time to fish when he can, to spend time with his granddaughter and close friends. In many respects, he's still a big kid ... living his dream.

With all due respect to the late Leo Durocher, the former Brooklyn Dodger manager credited with the saying, Chuck Herbert is one nice guy in first place, not only in his chosen profession, but with his clients and friends.



## 2014 UPHA Tom Moore Hall Of Fame Award

# CHUCK HERBERT

*The following bio appeared in the awards booklet Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the UPHA/ASHA/AHHS Convention in Savannah, Georgia.*



*Now these dear friends, Chuck Herbert and James Nichols, each have the navy blue UPHA Hall of Fame blazer. Herbert was inducted Saturday night in Savannah.*

Chuck, the son of Jane and Chuck Herbert, Sr., was born in Buffalo, New York. He has three sisters, Suzie Hobbs, Shelley Mehling and Patti Rathke. Chuck started riding at the age of eight at the Lin Mar Stables in Evansville. It was during his high school years working for Garland and Virgil Helm that he decided that he wanted to make a career in the Saddle Horse industry. It is also in high school that he met Nancy Durkee. After high school he attended Purdue University and was the first graduating class of the Purdue Veterinary Technology Program. Soon after graduation, on Christmas Day 1977, he married his High School sweetheart Nancy. Chuck and Nancy have been blessed with two wonderful children Caleb, who works at Cedarwood Farm as his assistant trainer, and Kelsey who works part time at the farm as the bookkeeper as well as a hair stylist. They also have one grand child, who has rocked Nancy and Chuck's world, Zadi, who Chuck says will probably keep him from ever retiring.

Chuck along with his sister, Shelley Herbert Mehling, started Cedarwood Farm, Inc., in 1979 in Evansville, Ind. Starting out with a six stall barn, an outdoor ring, two lesson horses and four training horses, Cedarwood Farm was born. They have trained 60 World's and Reserve World's Champions in the Saddle Horse division for juveniles and amateurs, the equitation division as well as the Hackney division. Chuck's sister passed away in July 2001 but with the help of Nancy, Caleb, Kelsey, and Assistant Trainer and Instructor Danielle Howser, the Cedarwood farm tradition has continued.

Along with his career as a professional horseman, Chuck has served 9 years on the UPHA Board of Directors. Two of those years as the UPHA President. He now serves on the ASHA Board of Directors and has been 2nd Vice President. He also serves on the American Saddlebred Registry and has been its Treasurer. Chuck also sits on several committees as well, the ASHA Finance Committee, the ASHA Officers Nominating Committee, the ASHA Human Resources Committee, the ARS Finance Committee, the ASR Nominating Committee, the USEF Saddlebred Committee and the USEF Licensed Officials Committee.

Chuck was named the American Royal Horseman of the Year in 2004, received the UPHA Shirley Parkinson Special Achievement Award in 2005. In 2005 he coached with Brent Jacobs the USA Invitational Cup in South Africa where they won the gold in both the Three-Gaited as well as the Five-Gaited Saddle Seat Equitation division. In 2007 he managed the USA World Cup Three-Gaited team with Renee Biggins where they won the Gold in that division as well. Chuck was inducted into the Indiana Hall of Fame in 2011.