



Gooitzen fan Teakesyl and Ilus Waldman People's Choice Awards

BY JENNY GREY

Gooitzen fan Teakesyl and Ilus Waldman, both shining examples of the best of the Friesian breed, have captured your hearts and won your votes this year. Gooitzen was not only the 2014 People's Choice Champion Friesian Driving Horse of the Year, he was selected as the Breyer Platinum Horse of the Year, an honor that very few achieve. Ilus Waldman, who has placed first in every class but one for the last two years, earned your vote as both the People's Choice Champion Friesian in Hand and the People's Choice Reserve Champion Friesian Saddle Seat Horse.

There can be few people who have not heard of Annika Bruggeworth, a gifted horsewoman who shows successfully in everything from saddle seat to driving and dressage. A colorful and optimistic presence in the Saddlebred and Friesian worlds, she knows how to enjoy her horses like no other. Her horse show parties are legendary. Whether they be in the stable aisle way or in the Bruggeworth box, those lucky enough to join the fun are buoyed by the experience. Annika's husband, Dr. Scott Bruggeworth and her children, Winter and Scotty, have all added to the family's collection of major ribbons and awards.

Annika began riding Saddlebreds and Morgans as a young girl, going to shows around the country with her mother, who could also be described as 'horse crazy'. They

did all of their own work and were often exhausted, but these early days ignited a passion that was re-kindled in later life. During her first marriage, when Annika was living in Philadelphia, she visited the Devon horse show. Her senses were awakened by the smells and sounds of her childhood. Before long, she was buying Saddlebreds and showing under the direction of such notables as the late Joe Heiney and her good friend, Jan Lukens.

Annika became intrigued by the Friesian breed in the early 2000's. She watched other prominent horse owners showing their Friesians and was determined to add this breed to her first class Saddlebred show string. "Everyone loves a Friesian," said Annika. "They are the 'great uniter'. Each one is sweet -- you can count on their disposition. They are never unfriendly or dangerous and are so easy to work with."

Annika established Friesian Season, with the intent of representing the finest saddle seat Friesians in the country. She and Jan Lukens enlisted the help of Shawn Hennigan, an expert in finding and importing top Friesians to the USA. Her first foray into the Friesian world was in 2002, with a horse named Patrick. They earned the reserve championship in Friesian Under Saddle at the Syracuse International show. As Annika's experience with Friesians grew, better horses were imported from the Netherlands until Annika found Gooitzen fan Teakesyl.

Gooitzen, as he is known, is a remarkable animal. He has earned over 140 blue ribbons and championships, including 18 world titles since Annika imported him to the USA. He has won with Annika and every member of her family as well as Carson Kressley, Jan Lukens and many more. Since 2008, Gooitzen and his Friesian and Saddlebred barn mates have been



housed in the beautiful Siren Song Stables facility in Mays Landing, New Jersey, designed to look like the stables Annika saw when on buying trips to Holland.

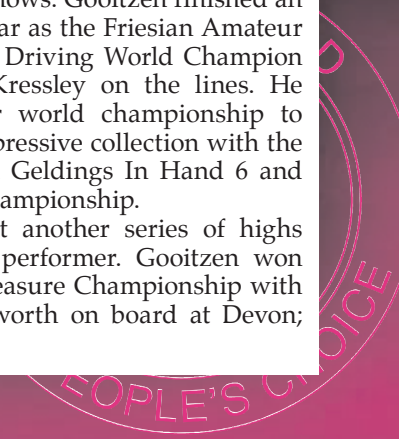
Gooitzen, who may be best known for his extraordinary number of wins in the park, pleasure and in hand divisions, earned your vote as the 2014 People's Choice Champion Friesian Driving Horse. While he has been winning accolades for Annika and the Bruggeworth family since 2005, he did not show in a driving class until 2011. As in everything else, he excelled in this division. While Annika Bruggeworth really prefers him as a saddle horse, she acknowledges he has the right qualities to excel in driving. "He does have a uniquely high head carriage that sets him apart in harness and adds an elegant look to the picture." For Annika, the most important quality she looks at when buying a Friesian, is a good neck. "They must have a very upright neck that is perpendicular to their shoulder. For saddle seat Friesians, it's all about the neck."

Gooitzen took to driving like the proverbial 'duck to water'. In 2011, with Dr. Scott Bruggeworth at whip, he won pleasure driving championships at the Bonnie Blue, Devon and Syracuse International shows and the Eastern States Exposition. In 2013, he and Dr. Scott won in driving classes again at the Tampa Charity, Syracuse International and JD Massey Classic horse shows. Gooitzen finished an outstanding year as the Friesian Amateur Show Pleasure Driving World Champion with Carson Kressley on the lines. He added another world championship to his already impressive collection with the Senior Friesian Geldings In Hand 6 and Over World Championship.

2014 brought another series of highs for this great performer. Gooitzen won the Friesian Pleasure Championship with Scotty Bruggeworth on board at Devon;



Gooitzen fan Teakesyl, who has earned multiple world titles and championships with Annika Bruggeworth and her entire family, was honored as the 2014 Breyer Platinum Horse of the Year. Hundreds of children lined up at Breyerfest, held at the Lexington Horse Park, to meet Gooitzen, Annika and her son, Scotty Bruggeworth.



they earned the top ribbon in Junior Exhibitor Saddle Seat Pleasure at the Pink Ribbon Classic in Ohio where Rick Martin also added another blue ribbon to the collection winning Friesian in Hand. Gooitzen and Scotty followed this series of wins as the undefeated champions at the Dayton show in Junior Exhibitor English Pleasure. At the end of a winning show season, in which he earned the extraordinary honor of being named the Breyer Platinum Horse of the Year, he earned two more titles -- the Senior Friesian Geldings Six and Over World Championship and the Friesian Show Pleasure Driving World Championship, taking well-deserved victory passes with Annika's long-time friend, Carson Kressley.

Gooitzen was selected as a Breyer horse for his long, prolific and successful show career as an iconic representative of the Friesian breed. He received this honor at the 25th anniversary of Breyerfest, held at the Kentucky Horse Park. "I know my favorite memory for Gooitzen was Breyerfest," said Annika. "My eyes were opened to a horse world that I never knew existed... throngs of wide-eyed children, living for the chance to lay eyes on and pet a horse like this. There were few cell phones and no attitudes, these were the most inspiring children I have seen in years." This was a unique opportunity to introduce her beautiful Friesians to the general public. Carson Kressley, adding his celebrity status, showed him off to an admiring crowd. Demonstrating her love for all animals, Annika later offered two limited edition Platinum Horse of the Year models of Gooitzen for the first people to rescue a horse, dog or cat before Christmas.

Ilus Waldman is another of the Siren Song superstars. A brilliant performer, he has achieved a blue ribbon or a championship in all but one class since Annika began showing him as a three-year old in 2013. She selected him from a video at the stallion show in 2012. "True to form during the inspection of the Dutch judges, Ilus leaped out of the enclosure and proceeded to run around the outside of the ring. I liked his spunk and his trot was amazing. I take great pride in that choice and he has exceeded my wildest dreams."

Friesians are not allowed to show until they are three years old. In a rigorous inspection process called 'Keuring', a rating is assigned to each individual that determines how well they meet the breed standards. The Keur takes place in Lexington, VA in September of each year. A 'Premie' is a rating assigned to a foal, assessed again each year at the Keur until the horse is three years old and considered adult. At that time, they can receive one of five possible ratings. Ilus Waldman was honored last year with a First Premium Star, which the Friesian Association describes as a rarity. He was also Grand Champion of the Keur, a huge achievement in the Friesian world. In total, Ilus Waldman has brought home eight world championships for Annika and Siren Song Stables.



Carson Kressley, a long-time friend of the Bruggeworth family, was on hand at Breyerfest to show off Gooitzen fan Teakesyl, the Breyer platinum horse of the year, to a cheering crowd.



Annika Bruggeworth, a versatile and accomplished horsewoman, shows her Friesians in hand, in driving classes, dressage and under saddle. She is pictured here with the 2014 undefeated Friesian World Champion, Ilus Waldman, who earned four titles last year.

In 2013, with Carson Kressley leading, Ilus won the Friesian Junior Geldings Three to Five Year-Old World Championship and the Friesian Walk/Trot Pleasure Three-Year Old World Championship with Annika in the irons. Ilus proved he was living up to his early promise again last year. For the past two show seasons he was victorious in 18 out of 19 classes. He was undefeated under saddle as a four-year old, primarily ridden by Annika, who shared him for two additional winning classes with Jan Lukens and Scotty Bruggeworth. He was not shown in hand until the world championship show, where he was undefeated with four world championship wins. With Annika in the saddle he was the Friesian Walk/Trot Saddle Seat Pleasure Mares and Geldings World Champion and The Friesian Walk/Trot Saddle Seat Pleasure Amateur World Champion. Ilus also repeated his 2013 victory as the Friesian Junior Geldings Three to Five Year-Old World Champion as well

as the Friesian Geldings Amateur to Show World Champion with Carson Kressley presenting him at his spectacular best. Undefeated world championship shows like this happen rarely, especially given that Ilus is only four with a great career in his future.

"Ilus Waldman is a very athletic and spectacular mover," said Annika of this magnificent animal. As with most star performers, he is a character. "He can be moody and slightly spoiled," she said honestly. "If he's not 100%, he will let you know. He's quite a prima donna and I know he hates air balloons (but that's another story). The only time he was bested was in a very good class, by a very sporty mare, when his wolf teeth were descending. He was not going to turn it on for me," Annika remembered. "But he came back and won the 11 horse championship at Lexington Junior League. One thing that's amusing though, he is just horrible driving! I wouldn't give a nickel for him in harness; he clods around pouting the whole time. It's really funny."

There are two more Friesians who make their home at Siren Song Stables. A versatile and accomplished horsewoman, Annika shows Brend V (aka Dr. B) in dressage. "Dr. B is a novelty," said Annika. "I went over to Holland and chose three Friesians. He was one of them. He slipped away from me and had some tough years but a wonderful woman gave him back to me and now he's the 'Ambassador'. He has a beautifully dreamy, long mane which is ironic because I bought him cheap in Holland when his mane had fallen out. He was only four but he was the biggest Friesian I ever saw and he still is. Everyone told me not to buy him but I am glad I did. He allows me to wear the top hat and tails of dressage and pretend to ride that way! My daughter, Winter Blaise, claims Dr. B as her favorite."

The most recent acquisition is a gorgeous, three-year old stallion with the unpronounceable name of Lauw fan'e Goengamieden (his barn name is Louie). One takes a huge risk when importing a stallion because the association standards for approving a breeding animal are incredibly strict. "This is the first stallion I have imported and the first of 15 that I have imported without the expertise and guidance of Shawn Hennigan," said Annika. "Stallions require a lot more quarantine, trouble and expense than geldings, but I'm sure it was worth it."

Gooitzen Fan Teakeysl and Ilus Waldman are wonderful ambassadors for the Friesian breed. They could have no better home than Siren Song Stable where they are loved and cared for by Annika Bruggeworth in an environment fit for their superstar status. Their performance is poetry in motion and their appeal to the general public is undeniable. They are well deserving recipients of their honors in the People's Choice hall of fame.