

ANTHONY MEAD

The Backyard Breeders Go-To Guy

By Dawn Moore



Amberwood's Bruno Mars, the 2016 Iowa Limited Breeders Weanling Champion.



Anthony Mead and Amberwood's Bruno Mars win reserve Champion at the 2016 All American Cup Weanling Championship.

Anthony Mead has been involved in training and showing the American Saddlebred for over 40 years yet many people wonder where he came from and where did he get his experience. Well, let's just say Mead is no stranger to the breed or the show ring. He first stated working for Charlie Judd, one of Missouri's great horsemen over 40 years ago. It was a tough place to be back then. In 1982 Mead recalls showing Bright Britches at the Missouri State Fair. There were over 40 in the weanling futurity class. Dr. Twiehaus owned the filly who was by CH Courageous Admiral and she was up against some tough competition. Mead knew she was nice, and after winning the class, the filly went on to become reserve champion UPHA Three-Year-Old Fine Harness class at the Royal in 1985 and then the following year was sold and became a World's Champion Three-Gaited Junior Exhibitor Mare. Mead said "We knew she was a nice one from the beginning." Mead enjoyed working babies and word traveled. As Anthony says, "Then I got smart" and he left Judd's. He went on to work for Dr E.L. Robinson in Lee's Summit, MO after Dick Kearney had left. Most of what Mead did was started the young colts. He ended up getting a farm in Liberty, MO on which he still lives today and has always been a neighbor and friend to the Rowland's. He's helped Ever Glades Farm with whatever they might have needed done at the time. To this day, Ever Glades Farm still counts on Mead when they need some extra help.

About ten years ago, a young girl in the area, Laurel Silcott had asked around because she had a horse and needed some help. By word-of-mouth, she was direct to Anthony Mead. Silcott showed some interest in learning Saddle Seat and one thing led to another. Before long, Mead

had acquired a mare, A Bay To Remember and decided it would be a good project horse for Silcott. Silcott still enjoys riding the mare and has much success on the local circuit. She's now a freshman at Truman, but still makes sure to get back and help with the horses and ride whenever she can.

Another person who Mead has helped over the years is Ellen LaMont. LaMont says that she had been told about Anthony and she contacted him back in the late '90s when she needed some help in Oklahoma with a horse. They've been friends ever since and when LaMont has a colt that she thinks is going to be special, she makes sure to turn the line over to Mead, as she did in



Anthony Mead with Sidewalk Drifter, 2015 Iowa Limited Breeders Weanling Champion

2015 when Sidewalk Drifter placed in the money at the AAC Weanling class and went on to win over \$12,000 at the Iowa Limited Breeders. Janet Thompson, who is best known for her powerful gaited pleasure gelding, CH Quidditch even reached out to Mead back in 2002 when he was a yearling and asked Mead to show him at the Indiana Futurity. They did Boone County Fair first, where they won and then a few weeks later picked up reserve at Indy but the winning handler, Joe T. Smith told Mead "You know you beat us." Both Mead and Thompson knew this was a good one and the show record proves it.

Most recently, Mead showed a yearling and a weanling for Reedannland at the All American Classic. Both placed in the money. He also showed a weanling for LaMont and then of course the reserve champion weanling, Amberwood's Bruno Mars for Tom and Anita Lewis as well as the Yearling with whom he did well with in 2015 and the Lewis's purchased, Diabolical Heiress. When asked why they send the young ones to him, one of the common comments is "he's honest and he'll tell us if we should send it back to the pasture." Mead says he doesn't want to give the customers any expectations because he doesn't want them to be disappointed if things don't turn out. Long time friend and client Tracy Kenaga laughs and says "He likes to set the bar low so we are thrilled when they do well." Mead says "I think I know what it takes to get there and I enjoy teaching and helping the backyard breeders as much as anything." Mead has had his share of horses in the money over the 13 years that the All American Weanling Cup has been around and he's even won the Wisconsin Limited Breeders once. He enjoys the young horses and teaching others.