

# AHHS LIMITED BREEDERS SWEEPSTAKES Weekend



BY BOB FUNKHOUSER

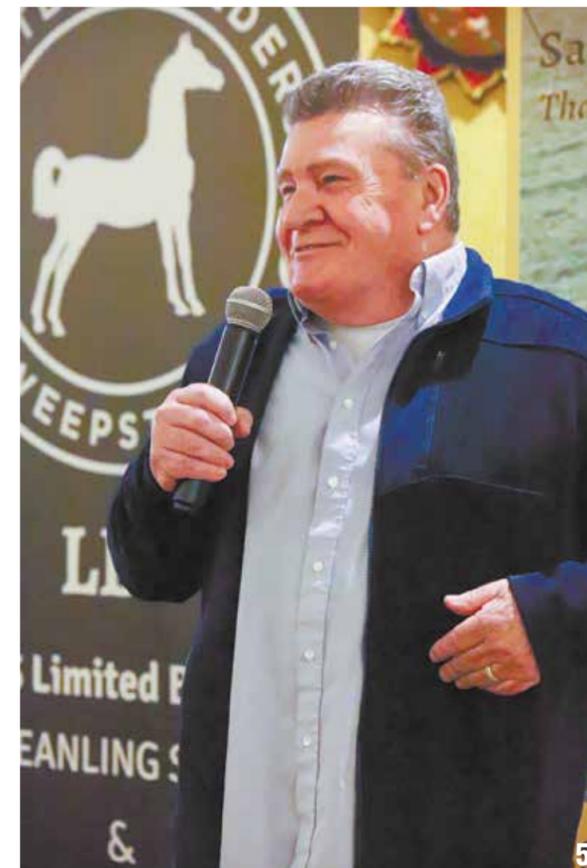
On a snowy, cold weekend in Kentucky, Hackney enthusiasts from across the country gathered for the annual Limited Breeders Sweepstakes Program. The committee, made up of chairman Tom Lowry, Rodney Hicks, Matt Schuckert, Katy Earehart, Chris Gantley, Sue Harrod, Steve Kildow, Taylor Gregory, Maureen Quackenbush, Hannah Sette, David Yoder, Amanda Ella, and Andy Freseth, did a wonderful job of hosting a weekend filled with fun, education, farm visits, and the all-important Stallion Service Auction.

It all started Friday evening at Marimba's in Simpsonville, Kentucky, where attendees gathered to catch up on what has happened over the winter and what they were looking forward to for the upcoming show season. American Hackney Horse Society (AHHS) President Tom Lowry welcomed the group to Simpsonville and went over the agenda for the weekend. He then introduced AHHS's Taylor Gregory, Maureen Quackenbush, and Mindy Preston who talked about the different prize programs where money can be won with Hackneys.

Following their presentation, everyone enjoyed a Mexican buffet sponsored by Saddle Horse Report. That was followed by comedian Mike Armstrong who did a good job of keeping the room in stitches. As he wrapped up his routine the night still wasn't over. A DJ was on hand for those who wanted to hit the dance floor.

Saturday morning featured a couple of open barn visits at Golden Creek Farms and Rose Stables. Tom Lowry had a good crowd at Golden Creek as he worked several ponies and talked about what he was working on with each pony. He fielded questions and even had Bill Mullet jump in the cart and take a drive with one pony.

That afternoon the program moved to The Barrel Room in Shelbyville, Kentucky, for lunch and the Stallion Service Auction. In addition to the 32 stallion services – 17 of which were new stallions to the program – a few other items such as sets of harness were put in the live auction, in addition to several nice items in the silent auction. The com-



mittee was there to raise money for the LBS Sweepstakes classes held at the All-American Classic in September and they did good job of that task. David Yoder and Meryl Stoltzfus served as the auctioneers, while Andrew Wood read pedigrees.

AHHS Executive Secretary Taylor Gregory reported that \$43,700 was raised from the stallion services and another \$11,370 was put in the coffers from the live and silent auctions. Twin Willow's Handsome Dan was the top selling stallion service with Karen Waldron bidding \$8,500. He was followed by stablemate, world's grand champion Handsome Harry who brought \$6,500 from Mark and Melissa Wahl's Shelby Creek Farm.

The third highest selling service was \$5,000 from David Yoder for Heartland Buddy Love. CH Crystal Creek's Commander came in fourth with a \$3,400 bid from Melissa Moore and the Top 5 rounded out with a \$2,700 bid from Travis Smith for Strike A Deal.

"It's always great to get everyone together and get to know one another on a different level than just seeing each other at horse shows," said Tom Lowry. "It was also great to have a little education about what AHHS does."

"Saturday morning it was cool to be able to invite everyone to the barn to watch some ponies work, many of them who had just started back to work. It was neat for people to see them in that stage and for people to see what we have been working on all winter with some of the younger ponies."

"As far as the auction it was great to see so many people interested in breeding ponies for the show ring. We raised a good amount of money to support the LBS program, which is one of the best programs the Society has. A lot of people have worked on this over the years to make it what it is today and I greatly appreciate that. Between the people who worked on this and those who supported the program with their donations and bids, a lot of people love the breed."

**IT WAS GREAT TO SEE SO MANY PEOPLE INTERESTED IN BREEDING PONIES FOR THE SHOW RING**



1 AHHS President Tom Lowry welcomed everyone to a great weekend of activities.

2 At the Friday night event (l-r) Taylor Gregory, Maureen Quackenbush, and Mindy Preston each explained different prize money programs available to the AHHS membership and how they work.

3 The stage was set for the stallion service auction. Each of the 32 stallions were shown on the screen as they were auctioned off.

4 David Yoder (l) and Meryl Stoltzfus (r) were the auctioneers, while Andrew Wood read pedigrees. The team raised more than \$43,000 on the stallion services alone.

5 Following the business at hand, comedian Mike Armstrong had everyone rolling.

6 As part of the afternoon, everyone sang Happy Birthday to Shelby Wahl.

7 Executive Secretary Taylor Gregory kicked off the stallion service auction with a message to the attendees.