

ASAC ANNUAL AWARDS

BY SUSAN HARRIS

Out of an abundance of caution, the American Saddlebred Association of the Carolinas (ASAC) canceled its 42nd awards banquet and in-person general membership meeting scheduled for February 6, 2021. The annual membership meeting was held virtually and the following officers and board members were elected:

PRESIDENT

Karol Kunkle

VICE-PRESIDENT

Chris Bishop

TREASURER

Kim Williams-Griffin

SECRETARY

Betsy Boone

SHOW AFFILIATE

Sandra Hall

NC CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Kathy Carpenter

SC CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Erin Fann

SC PROFESSIONAL

Mary Lou Carrick

Because of the abbreviated show season and limits on other normal ASAC activities, only three of ASAC's special awards were acknowledge. Those awards included the Martina Roseberry Sportsmanship awards, the ASAC Eddie Case Memorial Scholarship, and the Carolinas' Futurity awards.

2020 ASAC President Chris Bishop announced the following honors for the three awards.



Matt Shiflet was honored with the Professional Martina Roseberry Sportsmanship Award. He is pictured here making the final victory pass for the 2020 World's Championship Horse Show aboard world's grand champion I'm Lookin' At You.

PROFESSIONAL MARTINA ROSEBERRY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

This individual goes above and beyond to promote the American Saddlebred, ASAC, UPHA, and the Carolinas Futurity. He has been a member of these organizations and served as an officer both in NC and nationally. He is a third generation horseman and always a gentleman like his father and grandfather. He is constantly looking for ways to grow ASAC and our breed on a national level. We have watched him grow up showing in the small show rings of NC to riding the Five-Gaited World Grand Champion on the green shavings of Louisville! You would have been hard pressed to find a bigger smile on anyone's face in Kentucky that Saturday night. It's my honor to announce our Professional of the Year, Matthew Shiflet.



Karol Kunkle was honored with the Amateur Martina Roseberry Sportsmanship Award. She is pictured here with her family and Max Ciampoli after her homebred PRF Kiss At Midnight won the Carolina Futurity Open Weanling class at the 2017 NC State Championship.

AMATEUR MARTINA ROSEBERRY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

This individual is highly respected among her peers. She is a "go getter," and you better not stand in her way when it comes to ASAC. She has taken ASAC to a level of financial stability we have not seen in years. I personally have learned how difficult and demanding her job is. There is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes on, and it has made me respect her even more. She volunteers her time willingly for the growth of ASAC. Our Amateur of the Year is Karol Kunkle.

ASAC EDDIE CASE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The letters of recommendation for this individual were impressive to say the least. One of the letters stated: "This individual embodies all that reminds me of Eddie. She is always the first to ask what she can do to help! She jumps into any job with a huge smile and a giving heart. From the very first time I met her, and didn't even know her, she was reaching out to me with support and a smile, anxious to do whatever she could to help others. She has been instrumental in the Ride for the Cause programs to raise money for Victory Farm and assisted in many fundraisers. I've had the pleasure of being around her at the barn and at shows. She carries the same loving, supporting, uplifting spirit as Eddie ... and has the talent to match. She's the best sport I know, always lifting others up, never uttering an unkind word, and always willing to lend a helping hand. If this award is based only on sportsmanship ... she's your gal!"

But we also know of her accomplishments outside the ring in ASAC Youth, academics and of course, her outstanding riding ability and show record. She makes us all proud! She makes me proud too. It's my honor to recognize Gracie Ledet as the 2021 Eddie Case Scholarship recipient.



Gracie Ledet was awarded the ASAC Eddie Case Memorial Scholarship. She is pictured riding CH Poppin' Good Time. The successful team was the 2020 ASAC High Point Three-Gaited Show Pleasure Junior Exhibitor Champion.



Caroline Josephson was honored with the Youth Martina Roseberry Sportsmanship Award. She is pictured here aboard Reedann's What A Looker who she finished a successful 2020 as the Carolina Summer Circuit Amateur/Junior Three-Gaited Grand Champion.

YOUTH MARTINA ROSEBERRY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

The next individual is an ideal recipient for the Martina Roseberry Youth award. She exudes a genuine love for the American Saddlebred, displaying a strong work ethic and promotes an encouraging atmosphere everywhere she goes. She is a passionate competitor who is always excited to be in the show ring. Making her debut in academy at the age of 10, she now enters her final year as a junior exhibitor riding in the Junior Exhibitor Three-Gaited division. Practicing relentlessly, she is determined to be the best rider she can be, always finding room for improvement and always proud of her performance no matter the ribbon. She carries this positive attitude everywhere she goes and is a great supporter of fellow ASB enthusiasts. When she is not in the show ring, she can be found cheering on other competitors and lending a hand, whether it be assisting academy instructors or helping other riders of any barn prepare for their classes. She enjoys serving and putting others before herself. She has been an active ASAC Youth officer for the past three years and also volunteers much of her time at Victory Farm helping children with disabilities gain confidence and strength through riding American Saddlebreds. She savors time spent with her barn family and is loved by all who meet her. Our Junior Exhibitor of the Year is Caroline Josephson.



Rance Boozer was honored with the Carolina's Futurity Distinguished Service Award. He is pictured showing Rocket Man. The West Wind trained team closed out their 2020 season as the NC State Fair Fine Harness Grand Champion.

CAROLINAS' FUTURITY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

A long-time supporter of the American Saddlebred, the recipient of this award is a "behind the scenes" kind of person. Always present, never loud, and never complaining, this person is always supportive of what is best for the Futurity's growth, both in our states and on the national level. The entire family is involved with Saddlebreds in a variety of ways including breeding, showing, and serving as organization members to promote the Saddlebred. He is always ready with a great idea for marketing our breed and ever ready with financial support for the Futurity. Please recognize and congratulate Rance Boozer, the 2020 Carolinas' Futurity Distinguished Service Award winner.



Anita Simpson was honored with the Futurity Distinguished Service Award. Pictured here is Testimony, one of success stories from her breeding program. By Callaway's Northern Kiss and out of her beloved mare CH Mother Mary, Testimony debuted under saddle with Matt Lightner winning the Three-Year-Old Park class.

CAROLINAS' FUTURITY DISTINGUISHED BREEDERS AWARD

This year's award recipient is a life-long supporter of the American Saddlebred. While her children were showing, she could always be found on the rail cheering them on. When the kids stopped showing, it was Mom's turn to shine in the show ring and with the fine babies she has raised. Her support of the Carolinas' Futurity growth is evidenced in her yearly nominations, as well as her commitment to showing her horses in the Futurity classes each fall. Please congratulate the Carolinas' Futurity Breeders Award winner for 2020, Anita Simpson.

THE SPARKY AWARD

The Sparky Award was initiated by Chestnut Lane Riding Academy in loving memory of Sparky, a beloved lesson horse. It is presented each year to the individual with the highest total academy points for the show season.

The top three riders out of a total of 188 eligible riders are:

Natalie Hancock – 11-13 Walk/Trot/Canter – Jon Walker Stables

Abbie Hobby – 14-17 Walk/Trot – Jon Walker Stables

Emma Huffstetler – 11-13 Walk/Trot – Jon Walker Stables

These three riders exemplify what it takes to be a winning high point competitor – dedication, fortitude, talent... AND families that support them, ESPECIALLY in a year that was challenging to say the least. Even in a year that saw a lot of cancelled shows, these riders successfully competed in a combined total of 78 classes at 11 eligible horse shows across 5 states. Wow!

Our winner distinguished herself by placing first in both equitation and showmanship in 11-13 Walk/Trot, the largest academy division of the year. During the 2020 season this rider earned points in a total of 30 classes at 11 horse shows. All but two of her 30 ribbons were firsts and seconds earning this rider an impressive 5,690 points. What a tremendous accomplishment!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S WINNER OF THE SPARKY AWARD:

Emma Huffstetler
from Jon Walker Stables.

THE TOP TEN HIGH POINT BARNs FOR PERFORMANCE WERE:

Boone's Farm & Stables
CHAMPION
High Caliber Stables
RESERVE CHAMPION
Break-Away Farm
Drowning Creek Farm
Felder Stables
Ingleside Farm
Jansal Saddlebreds
Jon Walker Stables
Matt Shiflet Stables
Shiflet Stables

THE TOP TEN HIGH POINT BARNs FOR ACADEMY WERE:

Jon Walker Stables
CHAMPION
Boone's Farm & Stables
RESERVE CHAMPION
Chestnut Lane
Creekwood Riding Academy
High Caliber Stables
Jansal Saddlebreds
Landon Farm
Legacy Saddlebreds
Lenux Stables
North Star Equestrian

ACADEMY 11-13 WTC SHOWMANSHIP

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Natalie Hancock	Jon Walker Stables
2nd	Claire Ann Frostad	Jon Walker Stables
3rd	Victoria Simos	High Caliber/Legacy Saddlebreds

ACADEMY SHOW RIDER WT EQUITATION

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Amory Lomax	Boone's Farm & Stables
2nd	Alex Nester	Jansal Saddlebreds
3rd	Carter Adair Rector	Boone's Farm & Stables

ACADEMY SHOW RIDER WT SHOWMANSHIP

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Amory Lomax	Boone's Farm & Stables
2nd	Alex Nester	Jansal Saddlebreds
3rd	Carter Adair Rector	Boone's Farm & Stables

ACADEMY ADULT WT EQUITATION

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	C.J. (Cynthia) Gray	Jon Walker Stables
2nd	Jessica Davis	Jansal Saddlebreds
3rd	Meredith Robichaud	Jon Walker Stables

ACADEMY ADULT WT SHOWMANSHIP

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	C.J. (Cynthia) Gray	Jon Walker Stables
2nd	Jessica Davis	Jansal Saddlebreds
3rd (t)	Tammy Hamby	Jon Walker Stables
3rd (t)	Meredith Robichaud	Jon Walker Stables

ACADEMY 14-17 WT EQUITATION

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Abby Hobbie	Jon Walker Stables
2nd	Morgan Stone	High Caliber/Legacy Saddlebreds
3rd	Sophia Finger	Boone's Farm & Stables

ACADEMY 14-17 WT SHOWMANSHIP

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Abby Hobbie	Jon Walker Stables
2nd	Morgan Stone	High Caliber/Legacy Saddlebreds
3rd	Noa Aviles	Creekwood Riding Academy

ACADEMY 11-13 WT EQUITATION

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Emma Huffstetler	Jon Walker Stables
2nd	Sarah Hoover	Jon Walker Stables
3rd	Dakota McCarthy	Lenux Stables

ACADEMY 11-13 WT SHOWMANSHIP

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Emma Huffstetler	Jon Walker Stables
2nd	Sarah Hoover	Jon Walker Stables
3rd	Dakota McCarthy	Lenux Stables

ACADEMY 9-10 WT EQUITATION

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Hayden Collins	Boone's Farm & Stables
2nd	Elin Cunningham	Jon Walker Stables
3rd	Grayson Stamey	Boone's Farm & Stables

ACADEMY 9-10 WT SHOWMANSHIP

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Hayden Collins	Boone's Farm & Stables
2nd	Grayson Stamey	Boone's Farm & Stables
3rd	Elin Cunningham	Jon Walker Stables

ACADEMY 7-8 WT EQUITATION

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Margaret Lowry	Boone's Farm & Stables
2nd	Madison Gunter	High Caliber/Legacy Saddlebreds
3rd	Olivia Allred	High Caliber/Legacy Saddlebreds

ACADEMY 7-8 WT SHOWMANSHIP

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Margaret Lowry	Boone's Farm & Stables
2nd	Evelyn Hancock	Jon Walker Stables
3rd	Olivia Allred	High Caliber/Legacy Saddlebreds

ACADEMY 6 AND UNDER, WT EQUITATION

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Kendyl Martin	High Caliber/Legacy Saddlebreds
2nd	Bexleigh Mahoney	Jon Walker Stables

ACADEMY 6 AND UNDER, WT SHOWMANSHIP

PLACE	RIDER	STABLE
1st	Kendyl Martin	High Caliber/Legacy Saddlebreds
2nd	Bexleigh Mahoney	Jon Walker Stables

