



A SUCCESSFUL RETURN

of the ASHBA Youth Conference

BY KATHERINE HANSIL
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Youth were lined up for the meet and greet along with poster signings for world's grand champions Bourbon Select and The Crowd Went Nuts!



Neil Visser presented reigning Three-Gaited World's Grand Champion The Crowd Went Nuts! whose barn name is "Forrest." Diane Sembler-Kamins, the proud owner, was one of the weekend's sponsors.



Robert Gardiner presented reigning Five-Gaited World's Grand Champion Bourbon Select. Known affectionally as "Woody," he is owned by Julia Tiller, one of the weekend's sponsors.

The American Saddlebred Horse & Breeders Association 2022 ASHBA Youth Conference was back in full force during the February 18-19 weekend. The event was presented by SG Equine Ventures and the Proctor Gallagher Institute. Unable to attend in person, Sandy Gallagher shared her motivational message via video.

In addition to Gallagher and the Proctor Gallagher Institute, Gold Level Sponsors were James and Misdee Miller and Riverdreams LLC; Silver Level the Sampsel/Warren Family; Bronze Sponsors the Bosworth Family and Pair of Jacks Stables, Cross Creek Equine Practice LLC, Doctor Dobro LLC, EAC Equine, Independent Equine Agents, MLS Equestrian, Prospect Lane Stables, and The Saddle Horse Report; while Grey Ridge Farm generously opened up its doors and hosted Saturday morning's field trip. Transportation for the field trip was made possible by the support of the ownership teams of world's grand champion Bourbon Select, world's grand champion The Crowd Went Nuts!, 2015 world's grand champion Marc Of Charm, and world's champion of champions Game Changer. Friends of ASHBA level sponsors also helped make treats, presentations, decorations, and more possible for this wonderful weekend. Other weekend benefactors included Jennifer Dixon, Madge and Dewey Bass, the Honey Baked Ham Company, Jennifer and Caroline Katko, Erin Obenauf, Carol Reedy, Richfield Video Productions, Doug Shiflet Photography, University of Kentucky Ag Equine Program, William Woods University, and Deveau Zubrod Kreitzer.

Close to 250 participants made the trip to Lexington, Kentucky, for the weekend's event held at the Embassy Suites and Grey Ridge Farm. Coast to coast ASHBA Youth Clubs came from states including California, North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and more. Liz Bolton Stables' group traveled the greatest distance from San Marcos,

ASHBA 2021

Youth Awards

ACADEMY AWARDS

Boone's Farm and Stables
 Brannon Stables
 Desmar Stables
 Grey Ridge Farm
 High Caliber Stables
 Ingleside Farm
 Trinity Farm
 Wingswept Farm
 Zubrod Farm

PHOTO CONTEST AWARD

13 & Under: "CH Cash Out" by Reese Fennessy
 14 & Over: "Saddlebred Sweetness" by Morgan Bonnell

YOUTH AWARD

13 & Under: Abbie Moulton
 14 & Over: Kendall Kelledy

YOUTH CLUB AWARDS

History Award: Trinity Trotters
 Membership Award: Brannon Barnsters
 Meetings & Program Award: Liz Bolton Stables Crew
 Educational Activities Award: Trinity Trotters
 Promotions Awards: Trinity Trotters
 Fundraising Award: Liz Bolton Crew

YOUTH CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

Trinity Trotters

**AMERICAN SADDLEBRED MUSEUM
 KEITH BARZ IMPACT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Hannah Broughton

FRANK OGLETREE AWARD

Alayna Applegate
 Kendall Kelledy



ASHBA President David Mount and ASHBA Special Programs Manager Samantha Geller were on hand throughout the weekend to tend to every detail making it a fantastic experience for all attending.



Look Who's Charming Now! and Isabel McSwain were one of the two American Saddlebred Sport Horse teams presenting the versatility of the breed.



Ethan Roetman headed Legacy Of Style, the three-year-old five-gaited gelding, while Bret Day spoke to building a strong, trusting relationship between horse and rider.

California, while Desmar Stables had the largest continent with 36 registered attendees.

The weekend kicked off with a pizza party sponsored by William Woods University. Games and activities were next on the agenda allowing the participants to get to know each other and of course have a lot of fun! Ellen Beard, of Success in Saddles and ASHBA's Horsin' Around with Ellen, was on hand to lead all of the educational activities and horse presentation discussions. Beard also had sessions for parents and the senior age group attendees Friday evening that worked on everything from understanding key instructional phrases to rein pressure. Beard narrated performances highlighting the form and function of each riding style, horse division, and discipline.

Saturday morning attendees were transported on buses to Grey Ridge Farm. Upon arrival they were greeted by donuts and other delicious breakfast items provided by Shiflet Photography before ASHBA President David Mount's welcome. Reigning world's grand champion trainers Robert Gardiner and Neil Visser followed Mount speaking about their start in the industry and their successes. Gardiner's remarks were motivating as he explained "when I was your age and sitting at those tables I never thought I would be where I am today. If you want to do this, you can too with hard work and willingness to listen to your horse and learn from others."

Attendees then gathered in Grey Ridge Farm's new arena for the meet and greet of world's grand champions Bourbon Select and The Crowd Went Nuts. While each horse was being presented, Gardiner and Visser shared what made each of these horses special in and out of the show ring and answered questions. Afterwards everyone visited with these championship teams individually, took pictures and received signed posters and stickers.

The next demonstration included American Saddlebred Sport Horse teams of CH-SH Royal Crest's Granite Permission with Lily Callahan and Look Who's Charming Now! with Isabel McSwain. As everyone knows, the American Saddlebred can do many jobs and this presentation was a great example of the breed's versatility. The pairs both compete in three-day eventing on the collegiate level and are considered equestrian triathletes



The Trinity Trotters were awarded the Youth Club of the Year. Based in Clayton, Indiana, and under the direction of owner/instructor Mary Lynn Foster and assistant/instructor Destiny McConnell, they won individually the History, Educational Activities and Community Service awards.



Alayna Applegate demonstrated her incredible skills during the equitation segment. Applegate is the reigning Triple Crown equitation champion.



The Ingleside Farm attendees had a great time taking pictures and visiting with Bourbon Select back at his decorated stall.



The Liz Bolton Stables crew was the group to travel the farthest – from California. They made the most of the weekend visiting with Bourbon Select (pictured) and The Crowd Went Nuts!



Melissa Moore and Emma Caruso teamed up to present Silas, a four-year-old American Saddlebred hunter country pleasure prospect.

performing in dressage, cross-country, and show jumping. Each rider spoke to their Saddlebred story; sharing the experience of their horse's strengths for the discipline and how this discipline is often an underappreciated in our breed.

Multi-National Champion Western Country Pleasure team CH Double Parked and Charlotte Mattson Kurtz showed off their moves in sterling silver next. They taught our attendees about the collection work, tack, and clothing that goes into standing out in this division.

The current Triple Crown equitation team of Alayna Applegate and CH-EQ Altar Of The Sun followed demonstrating the saddle seat equitation division. Applegate discussed pattern work and the process of preparing for the equitation finals.

Young horse development was another segment covered during the morning. Bret Day presented two horses at different stages of their show ring development. The first of two was a future show ring star Legend Of Style owned by Chestnut Dreams. Day is preparing this three-year-old for the five-gaited division. He discussed the fine points about building a strong, trusting relationship between horse and rider to allow a young horse's first ring experience to be a good one.

Emma Caruso from Sunrise Stables presented Silas, a four-year-old owned and bred by Covered Bridge Farm. While Caruso displayed the American Saddlebred hunter country Pleasure prospect in motion, Melissa Moore discussed how the division has developed and how their breeding program has used the division as an opportunity for more of their babies to be successful.

Day closed out the morning's demonstrations with the young park champion Signature Cocktail, now owned by Ava Greer. Day explained how they worked to find the best fit for this talented gelding and how confirmation plays into that decision.

After lunch sponsored by the Sampsel and Warren families, a series of special presenters was featured for attendees to rotate through in order to learn more about horses, industry professions, and equine health and safety. The University of Kentucky Equine Programs provided two stations

under the direction of Dr. Bob Coleman and the Wildcat Wranglers for youth to learn about tack and horse colors and markings. Dr. Ashley Craig had many of her state-of-the-art diagnostic tools demonstrating how her work helps Saddlebreds stay healthy and bring foals safely into the world. Aubri Hostetter of Hallway Feeds let youth get their hands on different types of grain, supplements, and hay bale tester while she discussed dietary health and management. With the help of breed diplomat Rocky Mountain Memories (Reggie), farrier Dave Lopez taught attendees about the proper and safe way to provide hoof care. To spotlight the more creative opportunities in the horse industry, Julie Anne Broder and Kaelyn Donnelly Browning discussed equine photography, breed publications, and equine marketing.

The weekend wrapped up back at the Embassy Suites for the ASHBA Youth Gala. It was a fun-filled event, which included the year-ending youth awards.

The weekend full of valuable and fun experiences for ASHBA Youth would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Samantha Geller, ASHBA Special Programs Manager and her 2022 planning group Brooke Applegate, Andrea Bratcher, Julie Anne Broder, Kaelyn Donnelly-Browning, Julie Kaufman, Christy Parker, Deveau Zubrod, and the team at Grey Ridge Farm. Additionally, ASHBA staff members David Mount, Jessica Cushing, and Morgan King were there to make the wonderful weekend possible. They made it a weekend these attendees will never forget.



Jennifer Foster awarded Hannah Broughton the American Saddlebred Museum Keith Barz Impact Scholarship Award.



The ZuCru (Zubrod Stables youth) had fun during the Friday night festivities making barn flags and more.