

CAROLINAS SHOW HUNTER HALL OF FAME 2019 INDUCTEES



J. ARTHUR “BUCKY” REYNOLDS II was a native of Tryon, NC, and was referred to as “the ultimate horseman’s horseman” in The Plaid Horse article by Timothy Wickes. Bucky’s influence in the show hunter world began in the 1950s. He was a very successful rider best known for finding and training countless winning show hunters including Navy Commander, Gozzi, Stocking Stuffer, Estrella, and Rosalyn. Horses Bucky found and trained often made other people famous. He was also known for his expertise in conformation. He selected and showed numerous champions in the breeding and conformation divisions. Bucky claimed his proudest moment as a trainer was when Estrella, with his sister Betty Oare riding, won the Amateur Owner Grand Hunter Championship at Devon. In addition to training horses, some of today’s top professionals such as the Towells, Hunt Tosh, Sandy Farrell, and the Karazissises were fortunate to learn from him. As a USEF “R” rated judge Bucky was well respected and officiated at every major show. For more than 50 years he was a prominent figure known for his talent and instinct as well as being gracious and humble. Bucky’s good friend Jack Towell recalls, “Bucky loved his horses, he was a great teacher. He knew more about horses than anyone I ever met in this business.” Bucky is an inductee of the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame and the Virginia Horse Show Association Hall of Fame as are his father, J. Arthur Reynolds, and his sister Betty Oare.

CAROL KENT has been a fixture in the Carolina Show Hunter industry since the 1950s. Her experience riding as a child influenced her decision to introduce her daughters to the sport. While taking them to competitions, Carol got interested in show office management. Laurence, her tech-savvy husband, wrote the first computerized horse show entry system in the US, which launched their show office business into a full-time endeavor. Based in Camden, SC, they ran the offices at most of the shows in NC and SC, as well as other major venues including WIHS and Upperville. After Laurence’s death in 1989, Carol added the NC State Fair H/J, Duke, Raleigh, NCHJA, and SCHJA shows to the list. The success of the Carolinas Hunter Circuit in the 1970s and ’80s was in large part due to Carol’s hard work. Carol was also instrumental in bringing Bob Bell into the show management business. Together they oversaw the ASPCA Regionals in Camden, SC for several years. According to Bob, “Carol was always helping someone in the industry. She had the knowledge and expertise and was always willing to share what she knew, a real horsewoman.” Carol’s daughters, Olympic rider Laura Kraut and her sister and business manager Mary Elizabeth Kent, have both become prominent professional horsewomen, noting, “Our mother not only taught us to love and respect horses, but the involvement of our parents in the management side of the industry helped us with the business side of our careers. Our mother’s love of the sport inspired us to find a way to pursue a career doing what we love.”



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COURTESY OF THE CHRONICLE OF THE HORSE

DREAMBOAT was a bay large pony mare by Woodlands Dream Cloud out of a paint mare named Fancy Darling. Tony Albertson spotted her in 1989 at the VA Pony Breeders Sale, when she was 3 years old and just under 14.0 ¾ hands. Tony convinced the Miracles to purchase her, and for 2 years he patiently trained her in NC, preparing her for their daughter Katherine. Dreamboat began showing in 1991 with immediate success at The Barracks before heading to Palm Beach. That set the stage for an unbelievable year. Dreamboat, lovingly called “Mary,” was champion almost 30 times that year in the Green and Large Pony Hunters. She was Reserve Large Green Pony Hunter Champion at the National Pony Finals and ended the year as AHSA HOTY Reserve Large Green Pony Hunter Champion. In 1992, she was sold to the Lindner family of Ohio, who trained with Tom Wright, and continued her spectacular career as Circuit Champion at WEF that year. From 1993 to 2002, the Lindner children rode her to Champion or Reserve at Devon (3 times), the PNHS (6 times), the WIHS (3 times), the CCHS (2 times), and once at the NHS. Tom Wright said, “Dreamboat was probably the best animal I ever trained. We were so fortunate to have had her for Blake, Cory, Clara and Christie. She won at every venue offered ... she could have been a Chronicle Horse of the Year.” She retired in 2002 and had three foals; one called Rock the Boat was the 2009 USEF Pony Finals Medium Green Pony Hunter Champion.

JEANNE SMITH moved to the Carolinas in 1978 to work with the legendary trainer Gordon Wright. Over the next four decades, Jeanne taught and continues to teach aspiring equestrians not just how to ride, but the true art of horsemanship. Professionals Daniel Geitner, Mike Rosser, Danny Robertshaw, Ron Danta, and Jack Towell all acknowledge her impact on the sport. Danta notes, “Trainers like Jeanne Smith are a dying breed. They start with horsemanship before all else and this is the true foundation of a good rider.” One former pupil said, “It’s a point of pride that I learned from Jeanne, ‘You always take care of your own horse because that is how you build the relationship.’” One of Jeanne’s greatest contributions has been starting young horses. Robertshaw said she can break a 3-year-old better than anyone. Calling her a “trainer’s trainer” he said, “If a professional is having trouble with a horse, they always send it to Jeanne.” Geitner concurred saying, “I had some horses I thought would never come around, but I sent them to Jeanne and she taught them their lead changes and more.” Towell said, “She’s the best there is at lead changes. Many horses would not have been successful or marketable if it wasn’t for Jeanne.” Jeanne holds a USEF “R” license and regularly judges top competitions across the country, but her dedication to the grass roots of the sport is another major contribution to the industry. Hosting 5-6 schooling shows every year at her Clear View Farm in Landrum, SC, Jeanne has always understood the importance of a solid foundation in both horses and people.



SHAWN MCMILLEN

CAROLINAS SHOW HUNTER HALL OF FAME 2019 INDUCTEES

DON STEWART JR. is originally from Raleigh, NC. He is a two-time *Chronicle of the Horse* Show Hunter Horseman of the Year. Don has ridden to championships at all the top shows and was the leading hunter rider at Devon in 1992 and at the NHS in 1993 and 1995. He has trained dozens of USEF HOTY champions, including Lyle (The *Chronicle of the Horse* 2008 Hunter Horse of the Year), Fernwalk, Hilton, Dance Away, Sassafras Creek, Midnight Hour, Western Prospect, Stetson, Clouceau, Bold Headlines, Heartstrings, Leave Me A-Roan, What About Me, and Western Magic. He has coached multiple winners at the USEF Medal Finals, ASPCA Maclay Finals, and USEF Pony Medal Finals, and has one of the largest sale barns in the country. Don has served on several USHJA committees. As Chairman of the Junior Hunter Task Force he spearheaded the USEF National Junior Hunter Finals and the inclusion of the handy class in the hunter division. A USEF “R” judge since 1980, he has officiated at every major outdoor show in the country, and at age 30 was the youngest person to judge the prestigious Devon Horse Show. Kelly Farmer, who rode with Don as a junior and won the 1993 Maclay Finals along with many championships at Indoors, described Don as a genius. In *The Chronicle’s* 1993 “Horses in Sport” issue she said, “He’s one of the best horsemen there are. He adds comic relief, and his personality is so light and easygoing that everything just works.” Don was inducted into the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame in 2012.



PENNINGTON



COURTESY OF THE CHRONICLE OF THE HORSE

HIGH HEARTS was a Thoroughbred mare whose career began in the Carolinas. In the early 1990s, Russ Walther sent her to Finally Farm in Camden, SC. She was purchased by Julia Matheson from Hickory, NC, and began winning in the Small Junior Hunters with both Julia and Liza Towell riding. The girls co-rode her to Reserve Champion at the 1993 PNHS. In the next three years High Hearts was Champion or Reserve at Blowing Rock, Camden, Charlotte, Chateau Elan, Deep Run, Pinehurst, Sedgfield, Palm Beach and Upperville. In 1995 she was sold to another Finally Farm customer, Molly Crossland, and ridden by Liza to Reserve Champion at the PNHS and WIHS. After indoors the Lindners purchased High Hearts and in the next four years she was champion or reserve at least 35 times. In 1999, 12-year-old Clara Lindner rode High Hearts to the win in the AHJF Hunter Classic Spectacular in Wellington, FL. It was an unprecedented win by such a young rider in a class where professionals, amateurs and juniors all compete against each other. In 1999 High Hearts was sold to Paula Polk Lillard and continued her winning ways. At age 21 she retired to Lillard’s estate in Chicago, where she passed away at age 30. During her career High Hearts was Champion or Reserve at Devon, the CCHS, the WIHS (2 times), the PNHS (4 times), Upperville (3 times), Lake Placid, and the Hampton Classic (3 times). As a Small Junior Hunter she earned over 24,000 points. As trainer Tom Wright noted, “High Hearts won for everyone who showed her.”



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LESTAT was a bay Thoroughbred gelding. Ron Danta bought him off the track for \$2,500 in the mid 1980s. Using a broom across two buckets in the barn aisle, Ron tested Lestat’s jumping instincts. He was skinny and a terrible mover, but Ron thought his jump was good enough, so he brought him home to his farm in Camden, SC. As a pre-green horse, Lestat never won an under saddle class, but with more flat work things changed dramatically. As a First Year Green horse, he was the hack winner at most shows, including the PNHS and the WIHS. In the late ’80s Danny Robertshaw rode him to First Year Green Champion all over the Carolinas. He was First Year and Grand Green Hunter Champion at the PNHS, and Reserve Champion at the NHS. That same year Ron’s then-wife Julie piloted him to Champion in the Amateur Owner Hunters at the WIHS. Despite his rough look in the beginning, Ron said he turned out to be a great and beautiful horse. In 1989 Bert and Diana Firestone purchased Lestat for their daughter Alison. They were extremely successful in the Large Junior Hunter division, winning Championships in VT, Wellington, and many other top horse shows. In 1990 Lestat was Large Junior Hunter Champion at Devon with Alison riding. He passed away in 1992, and in 1993 Alison donated the “Lestat Memorial Challenge Trophy” to the Devon Horse Show to honor his memory. Alison fondly remembers him as “a horse that always tried” and says she “was lucky to have had him.”



PENNINGTON



PENNINGTON

THOMAS EARL “RED” FRAZIER was born April 26, 1926 in Waynesville, NC. His love for horses came from working alongside his father, who operated the local livery stable. Red’s first professional job was manager of the Palm Beach Polo and Hunt Club. At that time he met and married Mary Ruby McDaniel, also from Waynesville. In the early 1950s Red and Mary moved to Landrum, SC, to work for J. Arthur Reynolds at his show and foxhunting stable. At Reynolds’ recommendation, Red took a position next door at the Block House to manage the horses of the new owner Dr. Oliver C. Carmichael, Jr., president of Converse College. Red acquired many quality horses for the Carmichaels. When the family moved to South Bend, IN in 1961, Red went along. But after one winter he returned to the warmer climate of the south, where he managed Cecil Huxford’s Risin’ Creek Farm in the late 1960s and later Rockridge Farm until the mid-1980s. At Rockridge, Red brought in Wayne Carroll, Carol Maloney, and George Morris to conduct clinics. He served as president of the GHJA, Chairman of the AHSA Zone 4 committee, and was a USEF “R” rated judge. Red was known for his quiet manner and gentle way with horses. Among them were Night Spree, Lea’s Boots, Rome Dome, Logically, Colonymas, Navy Commander, Cap’N’Gown, Fiddler’s Miss, and numerous others. In 1985 Red and Mary moved back to Waynesville, where he continued his involvement in the horse world until his death in 1989. He was inducted into the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame in 1999.