

HAL JONES, RAY SCHNITTKER; GAIL CUNARD HONORED AT MONTICELLO-GOSHEN CHAPTER USHWA BANQUET

Over 240 people turned out at Kutshers Country Club in Monticello, NY on October 26th when the Monticello-Goshen Chapter of the U.S. Harness Writers Association held their 50th Annual Awards Banquet. Hal Jones was honored with the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award. Gail Cunard, Ray Schnittker, Peter Goold, Dave Offenbergl and Matt Pepin were also cited and Hogies Cam was named "Horse of the Year".

Jones, a career horseman and longtime farm manager whose introduction of artificial insemination revolutionized the breeding industry was honored for his contributions to the sport. Jones was a farm manager at some of the sports top breeding establishments and he and son Steve's Cameo Hills Farm bred and raised some great horses including Deweycheatumnhowe.



Cunard was presented the Chapter's "Excelsior Achievement Award" for her outstanding efforts promoting the standardbred sport. In 1985 she became Administrator and CEO of the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame since 1985 and in 1996 took over the directorship of the institution. Cunard was the project manager for the museums renovation and her traveling exhibits have thrilled racing fans in the U.S and Canada for years.

Peter Goold was the recipient of the Amy Bull Crist Distinguished Service Award from Historic Track for his dedication and service to the National Historic Landmark. As the Director of the Agriculture and N.Y. State Horse Breeding Development Fund their New York Sires Stakes programs have become regular features at Goshen and an integral part of each season's racing programs.

Ray Schnittker was awarded the chapter's first Most Happy Fella Award named for the great sire who was mainly responsible for the growth of the breeding industry in New York State. Schnittker, with his outstanding trotter Deweycheatumnhowe, won the famed Hambletonian and Kentucky Futurity as well as other top stakes and Deweycheatumnhowe is now the all-time leading money winning 2 & 3 year old trotter in the sport.



For all he has done to further racing locally the Middletown T-H Record's sports editor Matt Pepin was the recipient of the chapter's Good Guy Award. He is responsible for the inclusion of horse racing on the newspapers website and he has his staff regularly write features on harness racing events of local interest.

Dave Offenbergl was named the Chapter's "Amateur Driver of the Year." A businessman by trade Offenbergl not only has invested in hundreds of race horses including the likes of Yes It's True, Continentalvictory, Mr

Vic and Angus Hall but he is involved in every facet of the industry from breeding to driving. For all that he brings to the sport Offenberg is the personification of a gentleman driver..

Hogies Cam, the winingest horse in North America was named "Horse of the Year". The 10-year-old Camluck gelding has already won 21 races--the fastest in 1:56:1-- and earned purses of over \$42,000 while racing in the claiming ranks. He is owned by Charles Strukel of Hampton Falls, N.H., trained by Bob Beauregard and driven by Jordan Stratton..

Abaton Hanover received "the Comeback of the Year Award" this season after beginning the year in low class trots and working his way the winners/over class taking a record of 1:59:2 and earning over \$39,000. He is owned and trained by Jody Riedel and driven by Jordan Stratton.

Talented Jimmy Marohn, Jr. received the Chapter's "Rising Star Award" and he will undoubtedly be one of the driving stars of the future. Thus far this season Marohn has won 155 races and ranks among the leading drivers at the Mighty M this year.

John Fielding's Giacometti was named the 2 Year Old Colt Pacer of the Year" while Bernie Ban's, B Intensified garnered the "2 Year Old Filly Pacer of the Year" award". Ray Allen and Brent Schlossberg's Never Missed was named 2 Year Old Trotting Colt of the Year and Salt Hill Farm's Smartina Pants earned the 2 -Year-Old Filly Trotter of the Year" award".

The "3- Year- Old Pacer of The Year" honors went to Charlie & Giorgan Iannazzo's, New Release. Dan Henry, Sr.'s Austin's Jon Jon was the choice for "3-Year- Old Trotting Colt of the Year" while Don A and Don P. Atlas's, High Limit earned accolades as the "3-Year-Old Trotting Filly of the Year".

The "Older Trotting Horse of the Year" award" for the second consecutive season went to Bill Mulligan's Donnegal while Catch A Break Stable II's , Match That, took home the trophy as "Older Trotting Mare of the Year".

Rebecca Williams, Nevertroubletroubl walked away with the "Older Pacing Horse of the Year" award and Redmak Enterprises Double Dream N was the unanimous choice for "Older Pacing Mare of the Year" honors.

Since claiming races are a staple of Monticello Raceway's racing programs multiple awards were presented in the claiming categories.

"Claiming Pacer Award winners went to Mary Beth Beauregard's Trot West Bandit and her Financial Aid. Bruce Aldrich's Missy's QT and Richie Ingrassia's Mystical Tenor were also cited..

Claiming Trotter Awards were presented to Woody Hoblitzell's, U S Stars N Stripes; to Sam Rice's Odee Ozar; and Jackie Rouse, Joe Farinella and Shawn Christner's, Sudden Speed..

Alan Schwartz was presented a Presidents Award and Michelle Logothery was the recipient of the "Caretaker of the Year" honors.

Charles Strukel walked away with the "Owner of the Year Award" after a great season by his Hogies Cam and Peter J. Lutman III received the Max A. Brewer Award as the most promising young driver.

Photo credit: Geri Schwarz