

International Saddlebred Hall of Fame
warmly welcomes you to our

NINTH ANNUAL HALL of FAME CEREMONY



*** SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025 ***

International Saddlebred Hall of Fame

Steve Gaw & Janet Thompson, Dual Master of Ceremonies

Historic Simmons' Stable, Mexico Missouri

Social Hour: 5pm, Dinner: 6pm



Tonight's Itinerary

Welcome: Bobette Balser Wilson

Guest Welcome: Matt Gowin (President, Mexico Chamber of Commerce)

& Steve Haag (Mayor of Mexico)

Invocation: Mary White Littrell (Co-President, SSPF)

Social Hour: 5pm

Dinner: 6pm

Dual Master of Ceremonies: Steve Gaw & Janet Thompson

Music: Renan Leme (violinist)

Photographer: David Pickering Photography

Caterer: Bucky's Sit or Get



Stable Illustration by Jane Norman

WHO EXACTLY ARE WE?

Simmons' Stable Preservation Fund (also known as, The International Saddlebred Hall of Fame) was formed in 2001. It is a 100% volunteer group made up of local citizens, kind donors and historic preservationists who are fighting to save the integrity of this 138 yr old barn and its glorious history of Saddle Horses and the people who have dedicated their lives to the Saddle Horse industry. We are deeply appreciative of all the help and good people that have come our way. We want to extend our appreciation of your time and effort this evening to come out and support us. It is our true honor to have you in our historic barn.



Dual Master of Ceremonies



STEVE GAW

Steve Gaw, grew up on a farm near Moberly, Missouri. Steve served as a member of the Missouri House of Representatives from 1993-2000. He was elected Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives three times serving from 1996-2000. He is a former Chair of the Missouri Public Service Commission, and currently serves as

the Senior Vice President of Markets and Infrastructure for the Advanced Power Alliance where he works on policies pertaining to wholesale electricity markets and electric infrastructure.

Steve is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Truman State University with a B.S. in Physics and has a law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

His family has been involved with horses for generations. His mother & father raised Saddlebreds, Missouri Fox Trotters, and Spotted Walking Horses. His mother showed a 5-gaited horse, Skyboy, in small shows around Missouri in the 1950s. During his time as Speaker, he selected Tom Bass as an inductee to the Hall of Famous Missourians and led a celebration of that event that included a two-day horseback ride from Mexico to Jefferson City ending with a display of Saddlebreds on the lawn of the Missouri Capitol. Steve and his wife Fannie, and their daughter Skylar live on a farm in Callaway County, where they raise American Saddlebred horses.

JANET THOMPSON



Janet, a graduate of the University of Missouri and a former Missouri State Public Defender, is a long-time resident of northern Boone County and currently serves in her fourth term as the Boone County District II Commissioner. She is the Chair of the Missouri Association of Counties Steering Committee on Policing, Justice & Mental Health and is Chair of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Healthy Counties Initiative. She also serves as Vice Chair of NACo's Justice & Public Safety Steering Committee.

Janet has owned, raised, and shown American Saddlebreds for many years and is currently a Board member of the American Saddlebred Versatility Association "VERSA," a Charter Club of the ASHBA, and as a committee member for the ASHBA. She has served in leadership roles for the ASHBA, MHSA, and VERSA. Janet is a life member of the USEF, the ASHBA, the UPHA (as an Associate member), and the American Saddlebred Museum. This year, she competes with CH The King's Speech (American Saddlebred Hunter), Miracle Max (American Saddlebred 5-gaited Country Pleasure and Western Pleasure), and Nocturnal Question Heir (Ranch, Western Pleasure and Working Western Pleasure).



2025 Inductees

BOB BRISON (*New Bloomfield, MO*)

CH Callaway's Forecaster. CH Callaway's Born To Win. CH Callaway's Copyright. CH Glenview's Excelalante. CH Mr. Center Stage. WCC Soquili's Georgia Cracker. WC The Brightest Blue. CH I'm Something Wicked. CH Manilla Thrilla. CH Take A Guess. CH Bravo Blue. CH Balenciaga. WC Say Yes To The Dress. CH Designed By You. All of these and so many more have one person in common—Bob Brison.

Bob grew up in Oregon, got his first taste of horses as did many others of his generation—through 4-H—and because his parents knew if he was on or around a horse he couldn't get into too much trouble. At a larger horse show, he saw a man who rode horse after horse and asked what that man did for a living. He was told the man was a "horse trainer." That was what Bob was determined to become.

Bob methodically began a course of study that has produced a veritable PhD in horse training. The first coursework took place out on the West Coast, while Bob was still in high school, with the man who would ultimately become family, Virgil Helm. Virgil was the trainer at Singing Hills Stables and hired Bob as a caretaker. Learning the ropes from Virgil, with an attention to detail that is second to none.

After high school, he moved to Iowa for Reedannland. This time the teacher was Alan "Doc" Raun, who allowed Bob to take care of horses & ponies and work them, under Doc's guidance. His Iowa experience confirmed that horse training was indeed his chosen profession. He found gaiting colts particularly fascinating, as he grew to understand how shoeing, biting, and so much more influenced a horse's timing. As the time in Iowa concluded, Bob moved back to Oregon, where he re-joined the Singing Hills group, this time as Virgil's assistant.

Bob and Tonya were married in 1984 and had Dr. Sarah (Wisdom), who chose a non-horse-related path and is the current Superintendent of Schools for New Bloomfield, MO, and Morgan (DeVore), who, after a stellar junior exhibitor career, became a professional horsewoman and is part of the World's Champion-producing team at DeVore Stables, along with her husband, Tyler, and mother-in-law Tammy. Bob's marriage to Tonya also further solidified his relationship with Virgil and with Virgil and Tonya's dad, Garland Helm, a talented horseman in his own right.

Bob's next move was to Missouri to Callaway Hills Farm, with Mrs. Weldon at the helm. Johnny Jones led their team and Bob began to hone his skills with young horses under Johnny's careful eye. Bob's first stint at Callaway Hills was relatively brief, and he left to rejoin Virgil, who had moved to Missouri as well. Mrs. Weldon kept her eye on Bob and when she got the chance, she welcomed him back to that big facility just north of Jefferson City.

At Callaway Hills, Bob turned out horse after horse that went on to glory. CH Callaway's Born To Win stood out. Bob first saw him in a herd of colts out in the field. He wasn't the biggest or the stretchiest, there was something about him that Bob saw. After the sale at which future 5-Gaited World's Champion of Champions CH Callaway's Forecaster was sold, Bob started working Born To Win and the rest was history. WCC WC CH Callaway's Born To Win (under Bob's careful tutelage) reached his apex under the ultimate ownership of Gayle Lampe, who rode him to multiple World and National titles in the Ladies 5-Gaited division. Luckily for the breed, his legacy continues.

After many successful years at Callaway Hills, Bob jumped to his own training stable right out his back door. Fairview Farm in New Bloomfield has become one of the premier stables in the country. Bob has brought along not only young horses and riders, but young trainers and instructors, to be that next generation of quiet competence, patience and skill, brings out the best in horses & their human partners. Bob's wisdom was that it's ok to make mistakes because it is through that process, that you learn.

Tonight we honor Bob for his lifelong service to the American Saddlebred through his induction into the International Saddlebred Hall of Fame.





2025 Inductees



ANNE NEIL (*Cleveland, TN*)

Rarely are horse farms considered to be an important part of state history or be included in the State Archives. Blythewood Farms in Cleveland, Tennessee, is the iconoclast in that respect. The woman who has kept Blythewood at the center of attention in Tennessee and across the nation, has been Anne Neil.

Anne & sister Margot grew up in a family of horse lovers. Their Mom, Betty Mayfield Neil, was a champion rider from a young age. Betty often rode with her father, Pearson Blythe Mayfield, at the farm that he had bought on the outskirts of Cleveland. That farm, Blythewood, was named for Mr. Mayfield. Anne's Dad, David Neil, demonstrated his love for and prowess at many aspects of the horse business, from breeder, to judge (across the United States, as well as in Canada and South Africa) and horseman, throughout his career. David & Betty lived on the family farm, raising their daughters and their horses.

Anne built a dynasty of great young horses in all divisions, horses that have gone on to show ring fame and have become foundation stock for other farms. In both show horse magazines and breeders' guides, Blythewood has been prominently featured throughout the years, with names like King Coe, Cameo on Parade, King of Rose A Lee, Secret Society, CF First Night Out, Superb Manhattan, At Night, Grand Command, Rare Night Out, Pride of Plainview, First Watch, Harrodsburg, and Firelane among the headliners.

Anne started riding before she was six, and as she rode, she absorbed her parents' passion for riding, driving, and breeding great horses. She was admitted to the incoming class at Stephens College with an equestrian program then led by Shirley Drew Hardwicke. Although grieving her father's passing, Anne was assuaged by the friendships and support freely given by Lee and Jane Fahey, Charlie Judd, Don Hulse, Maxine Gill Glenn, and Art Simmons. After college, Anne returned home to Blythewood to take over the reins from her Mom.

Anne and her sister Margot and part of Margot's family—specifically her daughter Key Everhart Waller and Key's family—live on the farm begun almost 100 years ago. Anne continues to breed, train, and show magnificent horses with that Blythewood touch. She, like her Mom and Dad before her, continues to be honored for her service to the industry and her dedication to the breed. Mrs. Neil was inducted into the American Saddlebred Breeders' Hall of Fame and the UPHA's Hall of fame. She also received the USEF Lifetime Achievement Award. She served on countless Boards to expand knowledge of the breed that she loved and to which she devoted a lifetime. Mr. Neil, before his passing, was honored by induction into the Road Horse Hall of Fame, a testament to his skill and acumen with both Saddlebreds and Standardbreds. Anne, like her Mom and Dad, understands the roles of service and commitment in ensuring the continued health of the breed she loves. Her commitment was recognized when she was inducted into the Kentucky State Fair Hall of Fame in 2024.

Although Anne has mentioned scaling back her work with this breed, every year she and her barn family bring out more great young horses. And, for all of them, it can be said that, indeed, "Blythewood Breeds Better Babies." Tonight we honor Anne for her lifelong service to the American Saddlebred through her induction into the International Saddlebred Hall of Fame. Tonight we honor Anne for her lifelong service to the American Saddlebred through her induction into the International Saddlebred Hall of Fame.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Simmons' Stables Preservation Fund mission is: to preserve the historical significance and physical integrity of; to offer for community use; and to present Simmons' Stables –a nationally significant historic site – to current and future generations that Mexico, Missouri was known as the "Saddlehorse Capital of the World".



2025 Inductees

MARJORIE BAIN (*Stilwell, KS*)

Missouri has a history of strong and talented women riders, instructors, and trainers. Jane Fahey, Donna Hobbs Moore, Annie Lawson Cowgill, Ruth Palmer, Janet Green, Alice Thompson, Gayle Lampe, Fern Palmer Bittner, Caroline Drew, Tonya Brison, and Glenda Pugh are just a few of these women with deep roots and storied experience as professionals in the horse world. While the number of women with amateur status in Missouri is impressive, a small subset of that group –the amateur/owner/trainers is led by a woman who has barely slowed down, even in her 90's. Marge Bain has been fellow competitor, role model, mentor, and good friend to generations of Missourians who strive to "ride in her footsteps."



Marge was born in 1929 in Republic, Missouri. Her sisters Jackie and Carolyn joined the family soon thereafter and each of the girls was bitten by the horse bug early on. While the other girls' interests focused on other breeds, Marge gravitated early toward the American Saddlebred. In 1937, not long after Marge acquired a ASB/STDB mare, her father took the family to the Missouri State Fair Horse Show, where she first saw an ASB in the show ring. She recalls watching Welch Greenwell in the ring aboard the Governor's 5-gaited champion and was smitten with the breed. Marge was self-taught, she started and rode many horses, including some stallions, that her Dad had bought at sales. She also learned by watching trainers work horses at shows, pouring through horse magazines, and seeking to understand exactly how her horses needed to look. Even now, Marge notes that her process was to have a goal, a picture in her mind of what every horse needed to look like, and then to do all she could to get him there and constantly strives for that goal.

In 1956, Marge married Jess Bain, the love of her life. Although he was not a horseman, he was a wonderful man who became the best groundman around. Marge and Jess moved to Stilwell Kansas. During the day, Jess worked as area manager in the sales division for Best Foods and Marge worked as a medical technologist, for 24 years as Chief Medical Technologist at Bethany Medical Center. When Marge got home in the evening and every weekend, the horses took center stage. Marge rarely worked or showed horses that came "ready made." Instead, she bought them young and created masterpieces. In those early days, Marge knew she was swimming upstream when she looked at her competitors in the 5-gaited classes she adored.

One of Marge's favorite horses to show was a crowd favorite around the Midwest. Big Ticket Item was a flashy chestnut who fronted up and popped his knee as high as any horse in the ring. Marge bought Ticket at Jim B's sale when he was eight months old. She initially thought he'd stay a stallion since he was beautiful and gifted, but he didn't grow very tall so she decided that was not in his future. Ticket's huge personality, extravagant motion, and extreme headset made him an eye-catcher in the ring. He and Marge were called to the winner's circle countless times during their showing partnership.

Although Marge now has scaled back on her horse activities, she still remains involved, especially on the breeding side. Her broodmare, who is under the watchful eye of good friend/colleague, Anthony Mead, produced the 4th place finisher in the 2024 All American Cup and has produced another equally gorgeous and talented baby that is eligible for the Cup & the Wisconsin Futurity for 2025. Marge will be on the rail cheering Anthony on again this year at both Indiana and Wisconsin.

While Marge clearly had the talent to become a professional, she never went down that path. Instead, she was the role model for the amateur owner trainer in this industry. And, she did it so well that Donna Moore, noted for her indelible impression on the Saddlebred and the horse industry writ large, wrote this fitting inscription to Marge in her book: "To Marge Bain, one of the best lady riders in the United States." Donna got it right.

Tonight we honor Marge for her lifelong service to the American Saddlebred through her induction into the International Saddlebred Hall of Fame.



2025 Inductees

MICHELE DAVIS MACFARLANE (*San Diego, CA*)

Michele Davis Macfarlane is one of two daughters (older sister Roxanne) born to Everett Conley “Con” Davis and Ellen Browning Scripps Davis, in San Diego, California and grew up on the family ranch, Scripps Miramar, with its connection to the Saddlebred world already established through her great-grandfather, E.W. Scripps and his daughter Nackey (Scripps Meanley), who had a stable of show ponies and Saddlebreds. While Mr. Davis spent much of his time at his law practice in San Diego, Michele’s mother and the two girls enjoyed life on the ranch, collecting eggs, milking the cow, and, of course, riding horses.

When Michele was seven or eight, her Mom decided to try her hand at street parades, so she bought a silver saddle and their trail horses became parade horses!! Mrs. Davis began the family tradition of being part of the Rose Parade in 1959 or 1960 and two years later, Michele became part of the family parade team. Because of her Saddlebred background, as Mrs. Davis began to pursue improving her pinto stock, she consulted her Aunt Nackey and discovered the folks who had purebred spotted Saddlebreds. One of those people was the father of another honoree tonight—Howard Palmer, the father of Fern Palmer Bittner.

Michele has been known for breeding quality American Saddlebreds and becoming the first woman and the first amateur woman to win the gaited stake at Louisville, this an astounding three times, her efforts on behalf of the American Saddlebred haven’t stopped there. She has lived into her belief that the Saddlebred can do it all and that it is up to us to broadcast how versatile the breed truly is. Perhaps that is in part why she took CH Like Thunder, who had won World’s Championship honors in hand as well as in performance, to top honors in the western division as well. Michele seems to always have enjoyed a challenge, especially a challenge involving a great horse.

And, with three different horses, she took on the challenge of the Big Dance in a big way. Remember—she is a woman and she is an AMATEUR. Both are a big deal. Before Michele came along, although an amateur had won once, a woman amateur had never won the gaited stake at Louisville. Michele did it three times on three different horses.

Perhaps that is in part why she continues the tradition that her Mom began so many years ago of participating annually in the Rose Parade with her group of mostly spotted Saddlebreds in full regalia. Perhaps that is in part why she took a team of Saddlebreds to England to appear as a representative of the United States before Queen Elizabeth, also a renowned horse enthusiast, at her Diamond Jubilee. Perhaps that is in part why she, at the instigation of good friend Elisabeth Goth, took horses to appear as part of the closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympics in Nagano, before an audience of millions.

Michele has been inducted into the Kentucky State Fair Hall of Fame; has received the Lurline Roth Sportsmanship Award, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Gordon Jenkins International Award. Last year, she, along with rodeo superstars Linda Rosser and Jan Youren, was inducted into the Grand National Women of Rodeo Presentation at the Cow Palace.

Tonight we honor Michele for her lifelong service to the American Saddlebred through her induction into the International Saddlebred Hall of Fame.





2025 Posthumous Inductees

LOULA LONG COMBS (1881-1971)

Loula Long Combs, the youngest daughter of lumber magnate Robert Alexander Long and Ella Long, was born in Columbus, Kansas in 1881. Her father often recounted that her first sentence was “Please buy me a pony.” That was a request that her father granted many times throughout her life and it was probably why we have the Longview Horse Park today. Mr. Long bought some 2,000 acres in eastern Jackson County, which became the site of Longview Farm. Since he was in the lumber business, the 42 buildings he had built on the property were both functional and works of art, and gave Loula the space she wanted to enjoy her equine companions. The functionality of the buildings was evident even to the last when visitors to the barn in which the indoor riding arena had pride of space saw the angled quarter wall that ensured that wheels never hit a wall but could just ride up an inch or so if necessary. Loula was ten and her love of horses ensured that the stables behind their large home on Independence Avenue were filled with quality horses and ponies.



When Loula was 20, in 1911, the family traveled to England, where Loula made her debut in international competition, taking part in London’s Olympia Horse Show. While they were in England, the family’s new home on Gladstone Boulevard, a French Beaux Arts mansion named “Corinthian Hall” was completed. This 72-room, four-story showplace of course included a large stable which, upon the family’s return to the United States, was again filled with Loula’s horses, ponies, and carriages. That home still stands and is now home to the Kansas City Museum.



In 1917, Loula married Robert Pryor Combs, the son of a pastor and a horse enthusiast in his own right. The two made Longview their permanent home. While Loula enjoyed the gardens, stables, and woods at the farm, she maintained a busy show schedule throughout the United States, Canada, and England for decades, riding and driving horses and ponies to the winner’s circle in the deepest competition. In the mid-1950’s, when at age 75 she competed in the great Chicago International Horse Show, she was called by

the Sports Illustrated writer, “Perhaps the most elegant competitor of all, particularly when driving a pair of horses to a phaeton with an attendant in maroon livery riding behind...” In Chicago, Mrs. Combs, who has been showing horses since the 19th century, demonstrated with ease that she is still the nation’s best whip by winning more first awards than anybody—11.” In a show that included the likes of Earl Teater, to be called “the best” said something.

Loula’s accomplishments didn’t separate her from the rest of the world that was, and continues to show horses. She understood well exactly what it takes to be successful and she also knew the monetary commitment that it means. In 1948, she was interviewed by a reporter for The New Yorker and stated, “Most people seem to have the idea that the prizes we win in the harness class are enough to offset our expenses, but, actually, first prize in a thousand-dollar stake is only \$300, and there’s a \$50 entrance fee to cut into that. Against such rewards, there is the expense of shipping the horses and paying the men who look after them.” She was, after all, her father’s daughter.

Finally, since we are here in central Missouri, and always looking for that “local connection,” we are reminded that Loula also considered our part of the state to have importance for the horse business. As she got older, she continued to drive and competed successfully until she cut back on her riding career. When she did that, she donated her sidesaddle to Stephens College, and many local women were honored to ride and show in that saddle, knowing that it was part of a very special heritage created by a very special lady. We honor her legacy tonight.



2025 Posthumous Inductees

FERN BITTNER (1935-2013)

Fern Palmer Bittner was one of two daughters born to Howard and Hazel Palmer in Columbia, Missouri. Fern and sister Betty (Spampanato) grew up riding and showing horses raised by her parents and trained by their paternal grandfather, Tony T. Palmer. At practically every Missouri horse show, the Palmer girls showcased their riding skills, winning countless blue ribbons. That showing American Saddlebreds was part of their “breeding” was in part evidenced by the iconic photograph of three generations of Palmers in the saddle with Tony, Howard’s sister, Margaret Palmer Parman, and Fern-- all aboard classic American Saddlebreds.



Fern’s Aunt Margaret not only rode alongside Fern and Betty but she also laid the foundation for some of Fern’s later involvement with organizations that form the backbone of the horse show world. Margaret was one of the founding members of the Missouri Horse Shows Association (MHSA) and was instrumental in re-starting the Boone County Fair Horse Show following its forced hiatus during WWII. Horse shows and horse-related organizations were in Fern’s blood. Fern took up that particular mantle in the late 1970’s and continued through the 1990’s, serving many terms as Board member and President of the MHSA.

When it came time for college, Fern chose Stephens College. While at Stephens in its then two-year degree program, Fern was elected Vice President of the Prince of Wales Club and, in that position, she managed the Prince of Wales Club Horse Show. After Stephens, Fern enrolled in Lindenwood College to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Physical Education. Even during her college career, Fern taught riding at Lindenwood. After graduation, she first accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Physical Education, teaching archery, volleyball, and bowling, then became the Director of Horsemanship, a title she kept for the next 24 years, until 1981. At Lindenwood, Fern maintained teaching saddle seat, hunt seat, and stock seat to Lindenwood and private students. Among her students were Maria Knight, Marsha and Gary Garone, Nealia McCracken, Mary Ann Meiners, Lori Glickman, Cookie DeLott, Rhonda Palmer Dickerson, Karen White Coup, Sally Quillian, Joni Friesen, and Jill Baahman. Although Lindenwood was one of the oldest colleges in the country to have a riding program, when Fern arrived, the numbers of students and horses were problematic and the physical condition of the stables themselves left much to be desired. Over time, all of that changed, with Fern overseeing the construction of a new barn with 40 stalls in 1968, and a program with over 100 students enrolled.

When Lindenwood suddenly shut down the riding program in 1980, Fern’s transition to the next phase of her life may not have been seamless but it was welcomed by all, despite that she was a woman entering a field that historically had been largely run only by men. She had managed the college shows for decades, but now she turned her hand to managing shows at all levels, from the Missouri Horse Shows Association Kick-Off, to the Missouri State Fair, St Louis National, Oklahoma Centennial, Pin Oak, Scottsdale, Morgan Grand Nationals, and the American Royal. These, and many more were soon to have the “Fern” stamp all over them. But, even as she transitioned away from her RIDING teacher career, she continued to teach. She could spot the makings of a paddock announcer, a show announcer, a show secretary, a steward, and even a judge, and then had the gift of introducing those folks to the possibilities and challenges those opportunities might create for the individual and the industry at large.

In 1959, Fern also acquired her ASHA (now USEF) judge’s card, which expanded her participation in the horse show world into yet another area. She held “R” cards in many breeds and disciplines and judged horse shows across the country, from very large to very small, but always providing the same expertise and ethic. She also became a Steward as she had practical experience in all levels of the horse business, knew the rules, and understood how to manage conflict effectively and appropriately. Tonight we honor Fern for her lifelong service to the American Saddlebred through her induction into the International Saddlebred Hall of Fame.



2025 Posthumous Inductees



JACK HOLVOET (1935-2013)

Most horse show enthusiasts can answer questions such as, “what is your favorite horse?” or “what was the best class in which you competed or showed?” Often, those memories have been captured in an image and, until the creation of cell phones with high resolution cameras, those images were part of the art and science of horse show photographers.

Jack Holvoet, born in Fort Madison, Iowa to Martin and Leonie Holvoet, had a lifelong love affair with horses, and most particularly, the American Saddlebred. Before the age of 20, he had purchased his first horse, which he rode for pleasure. By 1947, he had become involved in the horse show business by serving as ringmaster for many shows in the area.

Then, in 1954, after having discovered a unique ability to capture that perfect moment which would make a memory of a lifetime with a camera, Jack began a career that would last for decades, until his retirement in the early 1990s.



Beginning by shooting horses at small shows and private barns, Jack soon became known as one of the best horse show photographers in the country. He was the official photographer at shows across the country, from Maine to Arizona. From 1961-1991, he shot the Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota State Fair shows. Also for decades he could be found center ring at the American Royal, Tulsa Charity, and the Morgan World Cup shows. True to his roots, however, Jack continued to shoot smaller shows, which remain the backbone of the industry. Shows like Huntsville could count on Jack being there to catch that “Kodak moment” and preserve our special memories forever. For his unstinting devotion to the industry, Jack was recognized in 1997 by his induction into the Iowa Horsemen’s Hall of Fame.

In his “day” job, Jack also served the public. For 25 years, he was a carman for the Santa Fe Railroad, and for 20 years, he drove a bus for the Marquette and Fort Madison school systems. He was a member of the Holy Family Parish, at Sacred Heart Church, in Fort Madison.

Tonight we honor Jack for his lifelong service to the American Saddlebred through his induction into the International Saddlebred Hall of Fame.



International Saddlebred Hall of Fame Inductees Plaque

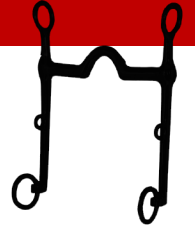
When the Simmons’ Stable board of directors met to discuss the selection of a plaque on which to place the names of the International Saddlebred Hall of Fame inductees, they decided they wanted something unique and something that would look appropriate in the 138-year old historic stable.

The “Big Barn on the Boulevard” was built in 1887 and was originally red. During the renovation process, some of the original red boards had been discovered and saved for a future project. Board members decided this would be the perfect time to utilize the treasured boards. Jim Stubblefield and crew made the plaque from the original red stable boards and framed the plaque with historic white boards from the John Hook barn.

It only seemed fitting the names of the Hall of Fame inductees be placed on these historic boards that witnessed so many famous horses and trainers over the years.



Hall of Fame Past Inductees



2024 Inductee: Judith Werner
2024 Inductee: Walt Robertson
2024 Inductee: Jimmy Robertson
2024 Inductee: John "Buck" Field
2024 Posthumous: *Jim B Robertson, William Lee "Bill" Field, Lewis "Splint" Barnett; Frank & Garland Bradshaw, Sallie & Kenneth Wheeler*

2023 Inductee: Bill, Chris & Jeff Thompson (Saddle & Bridle Magazine)
2023 Inductee: Edward "Hoppy" Bennett
2023 Inductee: R.H. Bennett
2023 Inductee: Sally McClure Jackson
2023 Posthumous: *Earl & Lloyd Teater, Cyrus Clark & Joseph Potts, Hamilton Bros; Jim & Jack, Charles Judd*

2022 Inductee: Martin Cockriel
2022 Inductee: Anna Marie Knipp
2022 Inductee: Nelson Green
2022 Posthumous Inductees: *Utz Brothers (Jay, Don, Sug), Darrel & Dick Wallen Family, Howard Roberts Family*

2021 Inductee: Lenore "Tony" Weldon with Betty & William Weldon
2021 Inductee: Janet Green
2021 Inductee: Robert Leu
2021 Inductee: Marion VandeWall
2021 Posthumous Inductees: *Lynn Weatherman, RS & Ruth Palmer, Jimmy Stewart, Marion Brown, John Hook*

*** 2020 Ceremony postponed**

2019 Inductee: Mike Roberts
2019 Inductee: Sarah & Landon Rowland
2019 Inductee: Raymond & Lillian Shively
2019 Posthumous Inductees: *Annie Lawson Cowgill, James "Jimmie" Hite, Donna Hobbs Moore & Thomas Mitchell Moore*

2018 Inductee: Greenwell Family
2018 Inductee: Hulse Family
2018 Inductee: Smith Lilly
2018 Inductee: Gayle Lampe
2018 Posthumous Inductees: *Shirley Drew Hardwicke & Lee Bros; William & George Lee*

2017 Inductee: Jim Simmons
2017 Inductee: Don Harris
2017 Inductee: April Hill Farm - Dale & Glenda Pugh
2017 Posthumous Inductee: *Tom Bass*

2016 Inductee: Skyrim Farm - Alice Neihardt Thompson & Dick Cook
2016 Inductee: Sonny Sutton
2016 Inductee: Virgil Helm
2016 Posthumous Inductee: *Arthur Simmons*



SSPF Board and Sponsors

2025 PRESERVATION FUND BOARD of DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents: Bobette Balser Wilson and Mary White Littrell, Vice-President: Ann Stubblefield;
Secretary: Heather Little, and Treasurer: Mary White Littrell

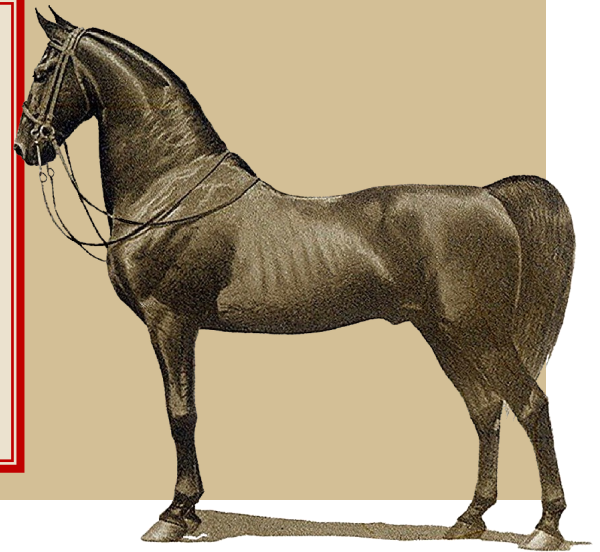
General Board Members: DeAnna Amos, Laura Mackey, Sarah Track, Tom Usnick and Joan Volkmer



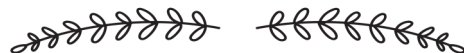
2025 HALL of FAME CEREMONY SPONSORS:

Sterling Cup Sponsor- Dale & Patti Cone (Mexico, MO)

Yellow Ribbon Sponsor-Janet Thompson (Columbia, MO)



Special thank you to the donors & volunteers that help make this event possible.



Without these people volunteering their time and talents, this event could not take place.

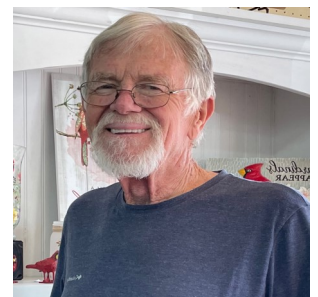
Steve Gaw & Janet Thompson-2025 Dual Master of Ceremonies, Sarah Track-slide presentation; Janet Thompson- inductee bios; Laura Minor Mackey- invitations, programs & ads; Lisa Silvers- desserts & cake; Heather Little- Cashier; Ann Stubblefield & DeAnna Amos- ticket & check-in, Morgan & Joan Volkmer- setup assistance

We appreciate our sponsors & volunteers willingness to help with anything we ask them to do.

Photos of the evening will be available for print purchase from: Pickering Photography
<https://www.davidpickering.biz>



We would like to thank Jim Stubblefield for taking an idea we had and designing it into a Trophy plaque that we present yearly at this event. His wood working and design skills, that he's spent a lifetime honing, are a huge asset to our group. We deeply appreciate you Jim.





Bass Bit History

Written by Valerie Schofield



Tom Bass image courtesy of the Audrain County Historical Society

TOM BASS (1859-1934)

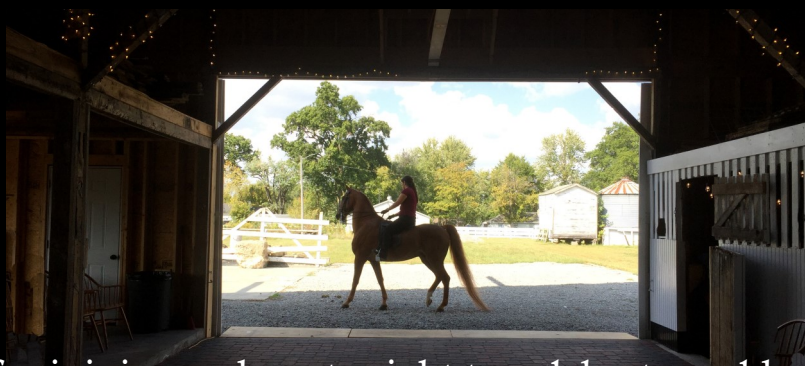
In the late 1800's, a young Tom Bass was a green stable hand at Potts & Clark's stable, having recently transitioned from his position as a groom at the Ringo Hotel. While he was already building his reputation as a gentle and highly skilled horseman, none would make a believer out of his naysayers than the mare simply referred to as the Blazing Black. When she arrived at the stable, a young Bass was instructed not to enter her stall without a pitchfork given her cantankerous attitude. She was a fiery beast that while striking, was too temperamental for even the most skilled horsemen employed at the stable. She could hardly be handled, let alone ridden, but Tom turned the lion into a lamb.

Sometime later, the stable was short of horses one year and Tom was asked if he knew of any stock that could easily be trained and shown to generate publicity. Having been sent to pasture, Tom took his colleagues to the Blazing Black and amazed them with her finesse under saddle. His secret? A new bit he himself invented. Tom Bass had determined that a good deal of the mare's problems related to a sore mouth from poor biting. The new bit, deemed the Bass Bit, was much gentler on a horse's mouth than its contemporaries.

Tom never attempted to patent his new bit. Being born a slave and by no means a man of wealth, he was often asked why, as he could have been a rich man many times over with his new invention. Time and time again, Tom stated that his bit was a gift to horses everywhere. He did advertise the bits for sale in the early 1900s for the price of \$15 C.O.D., but it was never a money making effort for him. For Tom, it was always about the horses. We decided to honor our International Saddlebred Hall of Fame inductees with a special presentation of the Bass bit because like Tom, their careers have always been about the horses. Whether they devoted their career to breeding, showing, or training, these individuals were selected due to their dedication to not only the industry but to the horse itself.

It is only appropriate that we use the Bass bit to symbolize the contributions of one simple act and the cascading significance it can have.

The Bass bit – a Legacy honoring legacies.



We thank you for joining us here tonight to celebrate and honor those who have dedicated their lives to the American Saddlebred horse and industry.