

The I and YOU



Official Newsletter
of the American
Morgan Horse
Institute

SUMMER 2009
Volume 2

Robin Veghte
Editor

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**The American
Morgan Horse
Institute**

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Contact:
Barbara Young
AMHIOffice@aol.com



Dear Morgan Community Members:

Welcome to our second newsletter! We hope that you are finding this information useful. In this issue, the focus is on the Morgan Horse Pavilion at the Kentucky Horse Park. The AMHI Board of Trustees hopes that you share our anticipation in the exciting prospect of next month's groundbreaking. We have signed the lease with the Park and are ready to begin construction. For more information beyond the articles in this newsletter, please visit www.morganhorse-khp.org.

We are also proud of our sustained ability to provide educational scholarships to youth and other worthy recipients in the Morgan community. Please join us in this important work. Your contributions go directly to helping AMHI assist young adults with their tuition payments.

As always, we welcome your feedback. Please let us know what you think by emailing AMHIOffice@aol.com.

*Sincerely,
Bob Morgan*

Committee Update:

Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show Is Almost Here!

Plans for Grand National are coming along well. People are indicating that they will be attending the show so we are optimistically expecting a good entry. It is still early but the first entry was recorded in June, the earliest in history.

Submitted by: **Georgie Green**

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will be constructed. (Pictured left to right: Mike Scales, KHP Fiscal Officer; Bob Morgan, AMHI President; and, Bill Cooke, Director, International Museum of the Horse) Construction begins next month and will be completed for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™.

“The Kentucky Horse Park facility is a wonderful opportunity for the Morgan horse community to showcase our beautiful breed,” said Bob Morgan, AMHI president and member of the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation Board of Directors. “Opening our pavilion in concert with the World Equestrian Games gives us a unique opportunity to publicize the horse we love to a worldwide audience.”



The Morgan Horse Pavilion, a 22,000-square-foot, three-story building, is designed by Yum Kee Fu. Mr. Fu, owner of Winchester, Kentucky-based Dragonsmeade Farm, donated his architectural services. Morton Building Corporation is the general contractor and builder.

The design focus of the building is to combine the educational with entertainment within the context of a “green” facility based on geothermal principles; Geothermal Contractor of Louisville, Kentucky is the solar designer.

“The open, airy, elegant design will house exhibits with a family-oriented, interactive, educational approach,” said Elaine Galatz, Chair of the KHP Pavilion Committee. “The Committee is thrilled to see its vision becoming a reality to share with Morgan horse lovers and those new to our breed.”

Committee Update: The KHP Project Moves Forward

The American Morgan Horse Institute (AMHI) has signed a 99-year lease with the Kentucky Horse Park (KHP) for the site on which the Morgan Horse Pavilion

We are in the permitting process and anticipate ground breaking the early part of September. The lease has been crafted and signed by Bob Morgan and is in review at the State Offices of Kentucky.

We will be finished with heavy equipment on the grounds by January 2010. We will be landscaping in the spring for an August opening.

The fundraising continues which will allow the exhibits and theater to be developed.

Several corporate sponsorships are in the development stages.

Commemorative bricks are being offered for \$100.00 per brick and \$250.00 for a patio stone. The Morgan Community has been very receptive to this plan of honoring special friends (human and equine) in this “Pathway to the Pavilion”.

This project will allow us to showcase the Morgan Breed in time for the 800,000 people expected during the World Equestrian Games. The Games will be held for the first time ever in the United States and there have been many improvements to the Horse Park in anticipation of the Games.

We know that many of our lives have been enriched through our affiliation with the Morgan horse and we hope, by telling the story and sharing the attributes of the breed in a place where all things equine are revered, we will increase our registry.

The committee members have been hard at work on this project for over a year now and their hard work is paying off.

We have been able to make this project a reality because Kee Fu has designed a beautiful building as a gift to the Morgan world. He has been directing all the construction process at no charge. His family’s dedication to this breed and the Morgan community has made it possible to make this dream come true even in these hardest of economic times.

We will continue to ask for everyone’s help. We will keep you updated as we continue on the “Pathway to the Pavilion.”

For additional information about the Morgan Horse Pavilion at the Kentucky Horse Park, please visit us at www.morganhorse-khp.org.

Submitted by: **Linda Hall**

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Award Recipient:

Joshua Rohrs

The American Morgan Horse Institute is proud to announce that the recipient of the 2009 Paul J. Stephan Memorial Award is Joshua Rohrs of Columbia City, Indiana.

The AMHI Paul J. Stephan Memorial Award is made each year in memory of Paul J. Stephan, who bred, trained, and presented fine Morgan horse champions. A talented and devoted horseman, Paul did not come from a privileged family, nor was he raised on a horse. As a 17-year-old young man, when he lacked direction in his life, Morgan horses gave him his life's work. It was his wish to provide a similar opportunity to other young men.

Joshua Rohrs began working at Triumph Stables in Roanoke, Indiana in 2000. "A burning passion developed that fueled a desire to learn as much as I could about these amazing animals and how to train them," he said. "This desire kept me coming back to the farm every summer for the past nine years." Joshua competes in the western division, pleasure driving, and English pleasure. Homeschooled since the fifth grade, he will study business and engineering at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. Joshua's dream is to be a Morgan horse trainer.

The award is to be used as a means of furthering the recipient's education in his specific area of interest and may include such disciplines as training, judging, equine reproduction, professional grooming, stable management, farrier or specialized shoeing, stable apprenticeship, and/or equine veterinary studies.

Submitted by: **Barbara Young**



Award Recipient:

Erica Strickfaden

The American Morgan Horse Institute is proud to announce that the recipient of the 2009 Graywood Youth Horsemanship Grant is Erica Strickfaden of Gowanda, New York.

The Graywood Youth Horsemanship Grant, available through the generosity of the Graywood Foundation, Inc., provides an opportunity for the

recipient to work with a training stable or breeding farm to receive tutelage, ride or drive quality Morgan horses, and acquire skill and knowledge in a "hands on" experience.

Seventeen-year-old Erica Strickfaden, who has been in the saddle since the age of five, competes in the western and hunter divisions. She wants to use the award to further her interest in a career in the equine industry. "I am already taking online classes to be a massage therapist for horses through the Galen Academy. I want to be able to open up my own business in training horses, breeding, and doing my massage therapy on them," said Erica. "Being with horse has been my life."

Submitted by: **Barbara Young**



Award Recipient:

Lisa Singer

The American Morgan Horse Institute is proud to announce that the recipients of the Joy Platz

International Driving Fund are Lisa Singer of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania and Suzy Stafford of Bear, Delaware.

Lisa will use the award to compete at the World Pair Championship in Keszketmet, Hungary in August, 2009. She first competed in the World Pair Championship in 1995; this will be her eighth competition at that event. This year, she is competing with two registered Morgans. "It is fun to see the Europeans make a special effort to come over and look at these 'little horses' and ask me many questions about them. I always say that they have the biggest heart of any breed and they are very versatile," said Lisa. "I have proven that the Morgan horse can stand up to the bigger horses."

Named to the United States Equestrian Team for the third consecutive time, Suzy will represent the United States at the World Pony Driving Championship in Greven, Germany next month.

"The Morgan horse has an unyielding competitive spirit that makes them highly desirable as a Combined Driving athlete. I am thrilled to be representing our country with a United States born and bred Morgan horse," she said. Suzy and "Katy" are going to World Pony Driving Championships undefeated for 2009. Suzy brought home the first individual Gold medal for the United States in Driving in 2005 and a team Bronze medal in 2007.

Submitted by: **Barbara Young**

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AMHI Announces: Educational Scholarships Recipients

The American Morgan Horse Institute (AMHI) is pleased to announce the 2009 educational scholarship recipients. Each award is \$3,000. AMHI is proud to collaborate with the 2009 scholarship donors to assist these outstanding young men and women in defraying the cost of their college tuitions.

Each year AMHI sponsors over \$15,000 in scholarships and grants to Morgan youth nationwide. All AMHI scholarships and grants are available through the generosity of individual contributors and from the proceeds of special events.

2009 AMHI Gloria Jones Memorial Educational Youth Scholarship

As a breeder, trainer, and exhibitor of Morgan horses since 1960, Gloria Jones was an active and enthusiastic participant in the carriage driving division. She and her husband Arthur operated California-based Summerhill Farm with their daughter, Terry. Among her innumerable accomplishments in the equine world, Mrs. Jones was named AMHA Woman of the Year in 1967 and 1992, chaired the Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show Committee in 1989 and 1992, was inducted into the AMHA Hall of Fame in 1995, and served as an AMHI trustee on the Executive and Scholarship Committees. Her lifelong commitment to children is exemplified by her 40-year career in education as a teacher and administrator in middle and high schools. Mrs. Jones' energy and enthusiasm were an inspiration to all who knew her.

The recipient of the 2009 AMHI Gloria Jones Memorial Educational Youth Scholarship is **Alyssa Rumsey** of Constantine, Michigan. Alyssa is a pianist, president of the National Honor Society, tennis team and band member, and she received the DAR Good Citizen Award in 2009. A member of the Michigan Justin Morgan Horse Association, Alyssa competes in the western and hunter divisions. Last year, she won the World Champion Junior Exhibitor Hunter Pleasure 16-17. A student at Michigan State University, Alyssa plans to be a veterinarian. "Working with horses has only augmented my decision and preparation to become a veterinarian by teaching me crucial life skills," she said.

2009 AMHI Joan Bowers Memorial Educational Youth Scholarship

Joan Bowers' equestrian life began as a six year old climbing onto pasture fences to slip on neighbors' horses and culminated with her induction into the 2007 AMHA Breeders Hall of Fame. Inspired by Topper, a half Morgan she owned and loved throughout her childhood and young adulthood, she and her husband, Rollie, formed their California-based Morgan Manor. Later relocating to Oregon, the full service training facility offered stud services that produced over 500 foals. Mrs. Bowers prolifically showed in a range of divisions including in hand, park, harness, pleasure, and western. Her daughter Tami, with her many equestrian accomplishments, rounded out the family operation. Mrs. Bowers' support of youth is memorialized in this 2009 scholarship in her name.

The recipient of the 2009 AMHI Joan Bowers Memorial Educational Youth Scholarship is **Frances Iyer** of Okemos, Michigan. Frances is a National Merit Finalist and member of the National Honor Society. A violinist, she participated in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival as a soloist and in an ensemble. As a choral member, she has performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Frances is a member of the Michigan Justin Morgan Horse Association and competes in the western division. She currently is the AMHA Youth Council representative for Region 3. "Through horses, I've built my self esteem and learned that anything can be accomplished with dedicated hard work," said Frances.

2009 AMHI Wheat State Educational Youth Scholarship

The Wheat State Morgan Horse Association, founded in 1962, encourages and promotes the breeding and use of Morgan horses, promotes interest in registered purebred and part-bred Morgans as versatile horses, and cooperates with other Morgan-affiliated organizations in working for the advancement of the breed. It operates the Wheat State Regional Morgan Horse Show in June in Hutchinson, Kansas. The Association, through its regional horse show, generously donates proceeds from the horse show to the AMHI Scholarship Program.

The recipient of the 2009 AMHI Wheat State Educational Youth Scholarship is **Amanda Porto** of Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Amanda is currently enrolled at Framingham (MA) State College where she is a Dean's List student. Amanda has been active for fifteen years in dance and has volunteered

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for a variety of organizations in her community including the Dartmouth Council on Aging. Amanda competes at the regional and national level in the hunter division. Amanda won the 2006 Junior Exhibitor Hunter Pleasure 16 at the Grand National. "My involvement with horses has truly had a great deal of influence in shaping me into the person that I am today," said Amanda. "I also feel that my involvement has strengthened my ability to set and achieve goals."

2009 AMHI Cy Tirrell Educational Youth Scholarship

The AMHI Cy Tirrell Educational Youth Scholarship was so designated fifteen years ago when the AMHI Board of Trustees named the award in honor of Professor Loring V. Tirrell, an animal husbandry professor at the University of New Hampshire from 1920 to 1966.

The recipient of the 2009 AMHI Cy Tirrell Educational Youth Scholarship is **Brandon Essink** of Syracuse, Nebraska. Brandon is a versatile exhibitor of Morgan horses at the regional and national level showing in western, saddle seat, pleasure driving, and hunt seat divisions. "The Morgan horse has taught me how to be responsible, honest, hard working, dedicated, and the list goes on," said Brandon. "Being involved with horses teaches a person a lot of things and those things continue on into adulthood. I don't have time to get into trouble; I have a friend to go feed and care for daily." Brandon is an active member of the AMHA youth program, 4-H, and the Syracuse Future Farmers of America.

2009 AMHI Educational Youth Scholarship

This scholarship is funded by the generous donation of individuals who, through monthly credit card transactions, enable AMHI to fund this fifth scholarship. Without these individual amounts culminating in one large award, this scholarship would not be available for this exceptional recipient.

Leah Escalante of Madison, Wisconsin is the recipient of the 2009 AMHI Educational Youth Scholarship. Leah rode Morgans in dressage to the second level and schooling to the third and fourth levels. She has a specific interest in promoting the Morgan horse for dressage. "They make wonderful dancing partners. The Morgan that taught me the meaning of dressage has forever left a stamp on my heart. There was not a more perfect horse for me in the world," she said. Leah is a member of the National Honor Society, honor student, and advanced placement student. She plans a career in equine regenerative medicine with an emphasis on stem cell therapy.

Committee Update:

National Museum Of The Morgan Horse

The newly formed National Museum of the Morgan Horse Council met on July 1 and elected the following officers:

Chair: Carol Potts, Alabama
Eastern Vice President: Robin Rednor, Florida
Western Vice President: Jill Smith, California
Secretary: Gayle Singer, Indiana
Treasurer: Anne Brown, Vermont

Council members are:

Jack Gatewood, Michigan
Jeff Gove, New Hampshire
Helen Herold, Massachusetts
Linda Jung, Wisconsin
Art Perry, California

Also in attendance were ex-officio member Julie Broadway, Executive Director of the AMHA and Amber Broderick, our new Museum Archivist.

This is an exciting time for the Council as we begin a new year. We have great enthusiasm that the Museum in Shelburne will attract new visitors and old visitors will want to return.

A decision was made to print 20,000 brochures for area hotels and rest stops. The new Museum hours are: Wednesday through Friday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Saturday, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Also, the office is open on Wednesday and Thursday until 5:00 PM and Friday until 4:00 PM.

In an effort to meet our budget, plans are to have auctions at the Grand National, AMHA Convention and the New England Show. We are looking for items of some value for which the donors can be given a tax deduction. Minimum bids will be placed on the items. You may either leave your auction item at the Museum or take it to the event.

Plans are in the works for an October exhibit by photographer Brett Simison. The photographs are a collection of images documenting the UVM Weybridge Morgan Horse Farm. The photographs will be exhibited in the main floor lobby and second floor lobby. There will be an opening reception with music and refreshments, and the artist will be available for questions. Brett Simison has agreed to consider making a donation to the archive of some of his Morgan horse related work. It is our hope that this will begin a new practice of holding rotating temporary exhibits in the lobby.

Submitted by: **Barbara Young**

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Committee Update: Membership

ARE YOU AN "A" Member? ARE YOU
AN "I" Member? ARE YOU AN "A&I" Member?

Maybe you are not like me and did not spend years trying to keep the two organizations that use their time and energy to promote and support our terrific Morgan horse separate in my mind.

The AMHA had the registry, The Morgan Horse magazine, a charitable trust, the AMHA logo, and AMHA goods to sell showcasing the Morgan logo. It also supports the many disciplines of the breed: showing, trail riding, reining, western ranch work, carriage driving and more. Its Board of Directors is elected from the various geographic regions of the U.S. along with two directors at-large.

The AMHI was set up as a not-for-profit organization, a 501 (c) (3), from the get go. It owns the building in Shelburne, where AMHA lease space for its offices, and where the National Museum of the Morgan Horse is housed. The AMHI is also the overseer of the Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show®, runs the Morgan Futurity, grants scholarships, runs the Weanling Sweepstakes, and now is raising money for the Morgan Horse Pavilion at the Kentucky Horse Park. The Board of Trustees is elected by its membership.

Both organizations need our support. You can see that the label "A&I" is a really good thing. I urge you to join the AMHI - and to join the AMHA - because bigger memberships mean more support financially and in all other ways for our wonderful breed...the Morgan Horse...the horse that chooses you!

Submitted by: Jill Smith

Committee Update: Travel

TORONTO TRIP;
NEIGH (NAY) FOR NOW.

Thanks, I think, to the shaky economy we did not have enough signups for the Toronto trip to warrant getting the travel company to follow through with the details. It may also have been the prospect of weather in November in the north, though sitting in 100 degrees in Southern California right now sure makes me want some COLD, COLD weather. We did have some six stalwart souls ready to travel and I am hoping that we can capture them and more for a trip in 2010.

As mentioned in the last article, the trips are a great way to see a new (or old) venue in a new way, with either horse or other pals, and with the added bonus of contributing a small or even more amount to the AMHI coffers for use in their charitable endeavors... scholarships for one.

Please do let me know if you are interested in the "I" continuing to explore trips for the future. We can't do it without you, but we certainly can with you! Thanks for your ongoing support!

Submitted by: Jill Smith

**Check us out on the web at:
www.morganhorseinstitute.com**

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AMHI Committees

AMHI/AMHA Building Committee:

Co-Chairs: Cindy Mugnier (AMHA) and Jack Gatewood (AMHA/AMHI)

Treasurer: Harry Sebring

Members: John Green (AMHI), Art Perry (AMHI), Susie Fu (AMHI), Julie Broadway (AMHA Ex Officio), Harry Sebring (AMHA), Ling Fu Wylie (AMHA).

AMHI By-Laws Committee:

Chair: Sherry Cole

Members: Ellen DiBella, Jill Smith

AMHI Public Relations Committee:

Chair: Tony Lee

Members: Ellen DiBella, Robin Rednor-Veghte

AMHI Insurance Oversight Committee:

Chair: Darwin Olson

Members: Robert Morgan, Mark Staehnke

AMHI Kentucky Horse Park Committee:

Chair: Elaine Galatz

Treasurer:

Members: Susie Fu, Jack Gatewood, Art Perry, Fran Pugh, Mona Skager, Jill Smith

AMHI Nominating Committee:

Chair: John Green

Members: Barbara Rudicel, Beth Fancsali

AMHI Scholarship Committee:

Chair: Ann Taylor

Treasurer:

Members: Jill Smith

AMHI Strategic Direction Committee to Coordinate Fundraising Activities:

Chair: Elaine Galatz

Members: Beth Fancsali, Sherry Cole, Ellen DiBella, Robin Rednor-Veghte

AMHI Travel Committee:

Chair: Jill Smith

Treasurer:

Members: Art Perry, Ann Taylor

Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show Committee:

Executive Show Committee: George Arnold (2008 Chair), Fred Dills (2008 Treasurer), Elaine Galatz, Georgie Green (2009 Chair), Kay Lawter, Tony Lee, Darwin Olson, Barbara Rudicel, Jim Stewart.

Ancillary Show Committee: Phil Alderman, Sherry Cole, Jeff Gove, Iann Fu Longenecker, Sally Plumley, Byron Singer. Ex-Officio: Cindy Mugnier (AMHA President), Robert Morgan (AMHI President), Julie Broadway, (AMHA Executive Director). Fred Nava will continue as Show Manager, Sally Wadhams, now fulltime as Director of Sponsor Relations, and Peggy Hatfield as Show Secretary.

National Museum of the Morgan Horse Council:

Chair: Art Perry, Chair

Treasurer: Anne Brown

Members: Marilyn Childs, Robert H. Morgan Jr., Jack Gatewood, Linda Jung, Carol Potts, Gayle Singer, Jill Smith

World Morgan Futurity Committee:

Chair: Barb Rudicel

Treasurer:

Members: Belle Hufferd, Tami Johnson, Tony Lee, Iann Fu Longenecker, Sally Plumley, Gail Yaeger, Linda Hawkins

AMHI Planned Giving Committee:

Chair: Richard Hawkins

Treasurer:

Members: Bob Burger, Anne Brown, Beth Fancsali

AMHI Weanling Sweepstakes

Chair: Larry Bolen

Treasurer: Paulette Bodnar

Members: Shanna Gish (Secretary), Paulette Bodnar (Treasurer), Fran Pugh and Beth Fancsali

AMHI Membership Committee

Chair: Jill Smith

Treasurer:

Members: Robin Rednor-Veghte, George Arnold