



# WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

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*A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF HORSES AND HORSEMEN IN WISCONSIN*

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MAY 19, 2006

### WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL HONORS WINNERS OF THE 2006 ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year, the Wisconsin State Horse Council is pleased to honor three exceptional horse people through the WSHC Annual Awards Program.

In a special award ceremony that took place at Midwest Horse Fair on Sunday, April 23, the Award winners and the nominees all rode into the Coliseum in horse drawn vehicles to the sound of applause. Plaques were presented to the winners and framed photos were provided to the nominees.

The 2006 Award winners are:

- **Beverly Gaedke, WSHC Horse Person of the Year** - A long time resident of Wisconsin Dells, Bev has spent a lifetime riding and loving horses. Her life experiences have taken her from racing horses in Chicago to sharing the love of riding and caring for horses as a 4-H Horse and Pony Leader—a role she has served as for the last 47 years.

She has taught generations of youth important lessons on becoming adults, all the while ingraining in them her love for all horses. Many of her students have gone on to be mentors and teachers for the following generation. A number have gone on to vet school and other equine-related careers.

Bev has taught all to respect horses, all horses, and that basic concept has provided the basis for rehabilitation and rescue of many horses that others had given up on. Many families, and horses, have benefited from her insight and wisdom.

For these reasons, and many others, the Wisconsin 4-H Association proudly nominated Bev, and WSHC is equally proud to honor her as 2006 Horse Person of the Year.

- **Sandy Voskuil, WSHC Judge of the Year** - A resident of Beaver Dam, Sandy was nominated by the Dodge County Boots and Saddles Club, and many others. As lifetime rider, she was an active competitor in Western Pleasure and Saddleseat. Sandy also taught riding, or more importantly,

she taught riders how to ride safely and happily enjoy the magic that is part of being with horses. Her students go on to accomplish great things in the horse industry.

Sandy helped to found the Dodge County Horseman's Association, an organization currently in its third generation of equestrians. She and her children became part of the Dodge County Boots and Saddles Club. Through sharing her love of Arabian horses, she helped to form the Bedouin Rough Riders, an Arabian native costume parade group based on the historical Rough Riders of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Sandy and this group have ridden in the Great Milwaukee Circus Parade since the late 1980's. Because of her encouragement, other club members have become part of this important, televised celebration of the horse.

As a seasoned Judge, Sandy continues to grow her knowledge even as the horse industry grows. Even when she's not judging, she is watching from the sidelines and learning. She can't get enough of examining the way a horse moves or the ways in which a rider communicates with a horse. Her strong work ethic commands respect without demanding it, and she provides encouragement and perspective to exhibitors. Her philosophy at horse shows is that no harm that may come to an animal at that show is worth the irreparable damage it will cause. WSHC is proud to honor Sandy as the 2006 Judge of the Year.

- **Marsha Cooper, WSHC Director of the Year** - A resident of Brooklyn, Marsha has been a force of nature since joining the Council. She has given tirelessly of her time and energy, serving both as a committee chair person for the Trails Committee and Holiday Party Committee and also as a committee member for the Legislative, Sponsorship, and Budget Committees.

Marsha has been active in legislative issues, working hard to stay on top of current issues and to share these issues with Directors and members. She has been able to make contacts with important key players politically and uses her influence to educate them on WSHC's role in legislation.

She has been instrumental in the success of the Trails Committee and continues to seek new ways to help improve trails in Wisconsin by planning workshops and clinics to help others become involved in the issues. She shares of her time and knowledge to teach others how to enjoy their horses and the wonderful trails that we do enjoy here in this state.

The Horse Camping 101 clinic from 2005 is a prime example of valuable projects she has organized and supported. This overnight clinic taught riders how to enjoy camping out with their horses, and included information on everything from how to cook good, easy meals over the campfire to safe trail riding etiquette.

Marsha has given endless hours of her time volunteering at Midwest Horse Fair and by promoting the WSHC through her dedication to equine activities throughout the state. For these reasons, and others too many to list, we are proud to honor her as 2006 Director of the Year.

- **Esther Schwartz, WSHC Lifetime Achievement Award** - A longtime resident of Oostburg, Esther's love of horses began at an early age and she would ride whatever was available, including cows!

As a young wife, she fell in love with the Arabian breed and the first of many Arabs came to be part of the Schwartz family. Her children, and many of their friends, all grew up riding and loving horses as strongly as their mother.

Esther's dream was to ride an Arab she'd bred in an endurance ride, and win it. She did just that, and much more. She helped found the Plymouth Trail Riders and was very active in WAHA for many years.

She is one of the original members of WSHC, having served so long, and so well, in so many capacities that it is impossible to list. WSHC is very proud to honor Esther with this award!

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