

2023 ASAW PEOPLE'S CHOICE HORSE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

*NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER WITH THEIR NARRATIVES PRINTED AS SUBMITTED. NOTHING HAS BEEN EDITED.

CALLAWAY'S LOVE AND MERCY

The criteria of the ASAW People's Choice Horse of the Year specifically states that the horses nominated must demonstrate consistent superiority by placing high at both nationally recognized shows as well as shows compatible with ASAW membership. Callaway's Love and Mercy has been a consistent competitor over the last 4 years under the Hanrahan Stables banner. He has been in the top ribbons from 5 gaited, park pleasure, classic pleasure and most recently the hunter division. "Foster" as he is affectionately called, had an outstanding show season in 2023. He won every open hunter class he entered, with the exception of one third place ribbon. He is honest, easy and a total sweetheart. Foster can also often be found in the show ring with his little girl in the lead line division. Foster has been a part of the saddlebred breed demonstration for several years at the Midwest horse fair. While it's not a quality required by the guidelines of the People's Choice Horse of the Year, it's definitely a quality that exemplifies an ambassador for our breed. He has individuals, not saddlebred people, that seek him out. He has a fan club, a following if you will, and "non saddlebred people" that literally bring him apples from their morning breakfast at the hotel. Foster's favorite "treat" is a Summer Shandy by Leinenkugels. Trust me, Wisconsin people think that's the greatest thing ever! Countless people have mentioned that they didn't realize saddlebreds could be so friendly, so kind and so relatable. It has been an absolute pleasure and joy to partner with a horse that is both a fantastic ambassador in the show ring, as well as in our public's eye. Please consider Callaway's Love and Mercy as your 2023 "People's Choice Horse of the Year."

CH CROSSFIRE'S CHARMED LIFE

Crossfire's Charmed Life has demonstrated excellence at regional, state, and national competitions from his very first step into the show ring. This big chestnut gelding, or more affectionately known as "Sox," has garnered wins at large shows including the UPHA American Royal, Midwest Charity, and a Wisconsin staple, The Madison Classic Horse Show. At the World Championship Horse show Sox was honored with a Reserve World Champion title. After just two years of show ring experience, Sox earned his final CH point with a unanimous win in the Adult Country Pleasure qualifier at the 2023 American Royal. He later went on to unanimously win the National Championship, standing among some of the best in the industry. Sox's high head, striking motion and show ring presence demonstrate the virtues of the American Saddlebred and make him an excellent candidate for the ASAW 2023 Horse of the Year.

CROWN & SEVEN

Crown and Seven was foaled on May 5, 2012. His sire was Northern Blues out of Callaway's Blue Northern and his Dam was New York Memories. His show career began at the River Ridge Charity Show in 2015, in the Fine Harness Division. Since that time, he has been shown in Show Pleasure, Park Pleasure, Park and Three-gaited classes. As we all know it is rare to be able to have a horse that can show in so many different divisions. It truly shows his versatility and athleticism! In October of 2021 Neva, Cole and I took a road trip to Springfield and met him for the first time. He sure made a first impression! A grand, deep red chestnut with a striking blonde mane and tail. My heart was in my throat watching Cole try him out. Wow! Tons of go forward, Presence, Motion, Captivating...One of those true show horses that grabs your attention and you just can't get enough of watching them. The rest is history! We purchased him and brought him home to Wisconsin. In the spring of 2022 they made their debut in the 13 & under show pleasure division. It was a whirlwind year.... Attending local ASAW, Mid-America, and IASPHA shows and traveling onto Midwest, Lexington and Louisville. They were a dynamic duo winning many classes and placing both in their qualifying and championship at the World Championship Horse Show. We have been so grateful for all the kind words and support that everyone has shown us. In 2023 Crown and Seven transitioned to the Park division showing successfully both in the Open with Neva and Junior Exhibitor with Cole. A great season filled with lots of local wins and culminating at Worlds qualifying for the Junior Exhibitor park championship. Crown and Seven truly is an exceptional representation of all the best the American Saddlebred Breed has to offer. As a big, bold, mane-flying, high-tailed, Chestnut, he is breathtaking to watch in the show ring and has been the talk of the show circuit. He is full of personality, a good thinker, and has a show horse mentality and attitude. He loves his job! Thank you for considering Crown & Seven for the ASAW People's Choice Horse of the Year for 2023.

DANI BLEU

Dani Bleu has lived her whole life in Wisconsin. Dani was bred and is trained by Lance Hayes in Neenah, Wisconsin. Dani is owned by Walter and Paulette Healey of Mequon, Wisconsin. Dani Bleu was born in 2016, making her 8 years old in 2024. The mare is by Mont Bleu out of Lotta Hotta. (Lotta is also a Wisconsin horse. As a weanling Lotta Hotta won the Wisconsin Futurity's Limited Breeders Stake.) Dani competes with Walter Healey in the Country Pleasure Driving Division. Mike Bletsoe introduced Dani Bleu to Country Pleasure Driving showing her to many wins. Dani knows her job and does it well. Dani has earned 40 wins and is a 6-time Kentucky State Fair ribbon winner. Prior to her career in Country Pleasure Driving, Dani was also successful in the Five Gaited and Fine Harness Divisions. Dani Bleu's past awards include: • ASAW Country Pleasure Driving Champion • Mid America Country Pleasure Driving Champion' • Saddle Horse Report, Grand Champion in Country Pleasure Driving • Saddle and Bridle, Country Pleasure Driving Mare Champion • ASHAB Region 5 Country Pleasure Driving Champion. Dani likes peppermints, going to horse shows, and freshly dragged rings.