



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION • VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 1 • Winter 2009

Donor Dollars at Work

BY MARY HILTON

“We appreciate the funding that the USET Foundation provides. The USEF High Performance staff is dedicated to being responsible stewards of this funding through careful management of our programs.” – James Wolf

The U.S. is one of only a handful of countries that fielded teams for Eventing, Dressage, and Show Jumping at the 2008 Olympic Games, the World Championships in seven high performance disciplines, and a Para Equestrian team at the Paralympics. Footing the bill was no small feat since none of those competitions took place in the United States. U.S. athletes, horses, and support staff globe-trotted to Hong Kong, Italy, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, Poland, Malaysia, and Sweden, requiring significant transportation expenditures. Additionally, U.S. show jumpers traveled to Europe to participate in a three-city Developing Rider tour and the prestigious eight-city Samsung Super League. All told, the expenses for the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) International High Performance programs for 2008 totaled nearly \$5 million. The biggest contributor to the High Performance program was the USET Foundation, which provided \$2,732,274, or 54%, in grants to the USEF in 2008. These USET Foundation grants go directly to programs; they do not cover USEF administrative/personnel expenses. These grants were made possible through the USET Foundation's fundraising efforts and the generosity of individual donors.

The International High Performance budgets were affected by rising fuel costs, the fact that U.S. equestrians were engaged in extensive traveling and shipping of horses, plus exchange rates in the different countries fluctuated wildly. To insure that they had the depth needed to send the best team possible to Hong Kong, the U.S. decided to send extra horses to Europe to quarantine for

the Olympic Games. This, despite the extra expense, became an excellent decision for Eventing and Dressage because after the selection trials two horses became ill and were unable to travel to Hong Kong.

“Given all of that, at year's end our financials for 2008 reflected less than a \$20,000 variance in the High Performance budget,” pointed out James Wolf, USEF Executive Director of Sport Programs. “We appreciate the funding that the USET Foundation provides. The USEF High Performance staff is dedicated to being responsible stewards of this funding through careful management of our programs.”

Wolf credited the USEF's High Performance discipline directors for doing an outstanding job of overseeing their budgets and finding creative ways to “fulfill our mission within the limits of our available funding.” The High Performance line items vary for each discipline but can include coaching fees, training sessions, developing rider tours, farriers, medications, competitions, and transportation for all athletes, staff, horses and equipment.



Horse transportation is the biggest expense category for the United States equestrian team. In 2008, U.S. team horses boarded planes bound for Hong Kong, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Malaysia, and Sweden to compete in the Olympic Games, World Championships, and Paralympic Games.

Photo by Kenneth Kraus/PhillySports.com



New Board of Trustees Members

Kimberly Boyer, Bill Brewer, and William Weeks have been named to the USET Foundation Board of Trustees. The announcement was made at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on January 31, 2009, in Wellington, FL.

BY MARY HILTON AND JENNIFER WOOD

KIMBERLY BOYER

Hampton Green Farm

Kim Boyer owns Hampton Green Farm, dedicated to the development of the Pure Spanish Horse for dressage in America. Kim began importing champion Spanish horses in the late 1990s. She keeps her breeding stock at her farm in Fruitport, MI, and showcases her stallions from her winter base in Wellington, FL. Her foals have earned significant awards. Kim sponsors topnotch riders and her horses have won titles at prestigious shows. Kim is President of the United States P.R.E. Association, serves on its Board of Directors, and is a member of its Management Committee. She holds a PhD in Philosophy in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Kim is the mother of four sons and is married to Frédéric Boyer. "For a dressage enthusiast, it's a very exciting time to be asked to serve on the Board," Boyer said. "Both nationally and internationally the dressage world is changing dramatically. Especially for Americans, dressage is taking on a new face – and it's a very unique American one. There is significant desire on the part of top riders to have more access to our coaching staff, more training for young riders, and more high performance programs, so it's a great time to get involved with the USET Foundation to promote and raise funds for those programs."



Kimberly Boyer

Jennifer Wood/PNG

BILL BREWER

Executive Vice President, American Quarter Horse Association

Bill Brewer has been with the American Quarter Horse Association for 37 years, serving in several positions including Advertising Sales Representative, Senior Director of Administration, and General Manager of the AQHA World Championship Show and American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championship Show. In 1992, he was named Executive Vice President. Bill works with the Executive Committee and nine department heads to coordinate business of the world's largest equine breed registry and membership organization, which encompasses 300 employees, 350,000 members, and 4.9 million registered American Quarter Horses. Bill also oversees the American Quarter Horse Foundation, which operates the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame. Bill serves on the American Horse Council's Government Affairs Advisory Council. He has a BS in Animal Science from the University of Oklahoma. Bill and his wife Sue are grandparents to Grady and Holland-Rae, the children of their son Shane and his wife Shanna. Bill enjoys riding his American Quarter Horse Larks Smooth Move, attending horse events, and playing golf. "I am extremely pleased with the tremendous growth of reining since first being recognized as an FEI discipline," said Brewer. "I am honored to work with the USET Foundation to help raise funds for the USEF high performance programs, and particularly reining."



Bill Brewer

Courtesy of AQHA

WILLIAM WEEKS

General Partner, L & S Cranberry

William Weeks of Southport, CT, has been general partner at L & S Cranberry, the main supplier of Ocean Spray, for nearly a decade. He has supported equestrian sport for years, thanks to his wife, Olivia Fry Weeks, and their daughters Alexa, Whitney, and Olivia. His daughters trained at Fairfield County Hunt Club with Emerson Burr, and went on to train with and support Grand Prix rider Kent Farrington. The Weekses own Madison, a mare that had a successful career as Farrington's Grand Prix mount and is now winning in the jumper divisions with Alexa. "The Board has a huge challenge to raise money for the next four years with our economy the way it is," Weeks said. "We're very aware of how difficult it's going to be, but you still have to try. There are always some angels that seem to come to the front when you need them the most. It is a four-year period that you're raising funds for though. You hope the economy turns around and that people are in a position to give to the Team. I don't think it's a question of whether people will give. I think it's a question of how much they'll be able to give."



William Weeks

Jennifer Wood/PNG



Dear Friends,

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of our donors who supported our U.S. Equestrian Teams through their generous gifts to the USET Foundation over the last quadrennial. Without your support our teams would not have been able to achieve the results they did in World Championship and Olympic competition. A total of 30 medals – 10 gold, 10 silver and 10 bronze! Our annual list of donors is included in this newsletter recognizing the tremendous individuals and private foundations that care passionately about equestrian sport – and in particular, the U.S. equestrian teams – and are integral to their success.

Over the past quadrennial, contributions to the Foundation increased by 41%, Gold Medal Club members increased by 33% and their contributions increased by 55%. This has allowed the Foundation to build up cash reserves for 2009 that will serve us well in these challenging economic times.

Our feature story in this newsletter is “Donor Dollars at Work.” I hope upon reading this piece that you will find it informative and also feel confident that the dollars you give are spent with the greatest consideration to finding cost efficiencies and achieving success on the world stage. The stewardship of your gifts is a top priority!

This year the Foundation welcomes three new Trustees that I know will be wonderful additions to our Board: Kim Boyer of Fruitport, MI, and Wellington, FL; Bill Brewer of Amarillo, TX; and William Weeks of Fairfield, CT, and Wellington, FL. Their commitment and dedication to helping our efforts is greatly appreciated and I look forward to working with them in furthering our mission.

In January we hosted a Cocktail Reception in Wellington, in conjunction with our Annual Meeting of Trustees, where we honored our 2008 Olympic teams, recognized the Gold Medal Club anniversaries of some of our most loyal contributors, and awarded the Whitney Stone Cup and Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy to two amazing athletes and ambassadors, Steffen Peters and Laura Noyes. It was a fabulous evening reminding us all of our love for the sport and country.

Although it is my hope that these turbulent times will be behind us soon, we are prepared to continue our commitment and hard work of supporting athletes, promoting international excellence and building for the future. We cannot do it without you – thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely yours,

Bonnie B. Jenkins
Executive Director



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DONOR DOLLARS

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OLYMPIC GAMES

According to Wolf, the Olympic expenses could have been much higher. "We're always looking at 'efficiencies' as I call them, within the budget of how to get the project done in the least expensive way while maintaining a high standard and never sacrificing safety or the welfare of the horses," explained Wolf. "For the Olympics, we looked at the shipping very, very closely because that is a very large dollar item."

The Olympic Organizing Committee paid to ship the horses from a hub in Europe to Hong Kong and back to the hub, but it did not pay to ship the equipment and it did not pay the entire cost of shipping the horses from the United States to Europe and back to their home base in the United States. "Airfreight prices went through the roof when the oil prices went up, so we fitted out a 20-foot shipping container to send heavy equipment by sea and serve as a tack room and leased a refrigerated container to ship feed," Wolf related. "That saved an awful lot of money. We try to be very smart. We want to give our athletes everything they need but we don't want to waste any money."

Olympic accommodations, the second biggest line item on the Olympic budget, also benefited from the U.S. 'efficiency' outlook. The hotel bill was for housing a rotating group of approximately 50 people during August and September which included team members and support staff. "The cost could have been a great deal higher if we hadn't worked out a deal with the hotel to let us have those rooms on a 24-hour cancellation basis," noted Wolf. Typically, at an Olympics or World Championship, a block of rooms must be booked for a specific number of days and paid for whether they're used or not. "But because August in Hong Kong is a down month for hotels due to high heat and humidity, we were able to negotiate a deal. We saved a great deal of money just through that negotiation with the hotel," Wolf said.

The U.S. Olympic Committee provided accommodations at the Olympic

Village near the equestrian venue at Shatin at no charge, but the U.S. team chose not to go that route. "We didn't stay in the Village every night because we thought it was very much performance-enhancing for our athletes to have a hotel room. A lot of our people travel with their significant others and we felt that was such an important part of their support mechanism at the Games that we wanted to make sure that we didn't separate them from one of their greatest sources of strength," Wolf explained. "We did house athletes in the Village if they had early start times the following day and needed to use the official transportation system. For instance, all of the Eventing riders stayed in the Village the night before their cross-country competition."

The third most expensive element of the Olympics is one where efficiencies were superseded by the welfare of the horses – the veterinary costs, which covered the horses' medications, veterinarians' time and travel, and care facilities. "The veterinarians that work with our U.S. teams are some of the best in the world. While the expense is significant, these veterinarians provide their professional services at a fraction of what they would be making at home with their practices," Wolf said. "We had some horses that got sick on the trip. One in particular incurred significant veterinary costs in Hong Kong to get him right for the Games." The USEF has a horse loan agreement with the owners in which it accepts the responsibility for veterinary care while they're on the trip. "We work very hard to keep the veterinary costs down, but it's an expensive part of the process," Wolf noted. "We're borrowing these horses and we have to take the absolute best care of them we possibly can. The welfare of the horses is, and will always be, our primary concern."

At the 2008 Olympic Games, the U.S. took home three medals. The Show Jumping team of Laura Kraut, Beezie Madden, Will Simpson, and McLain Ward, plus alternate Anne Kursinski, led by Chef d'Equipe George H. Morris, won the Team Gold Medal, successfully defending the Team Gold Medal they won at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Madden added to the medal count when she clinched the Individual Bronze. The Eventing team

comprised of Phillip Dutton, Rebecca Holder, Gina Miles, Karen O'Connor and Amy Tryon with Chef d'Equipe Mark Phillips finished seventh in team competition. Miles delivered consistently good performances on all three days to claim the Individual Silver Medal. The U.S. Dressage team of Courtney King-Dye, Debbie McDonald, Steffen Peters, and alternate Michael Barisone under the guidance of Chef d'Equipe Klaus Balkenhol ended the Olympics out of the team medals, however, Peters nearly took the Individual Bronze, edged out by only .3%.

The U.S. Teams won more medals in the equestrian disciplines than any other country except Germany.



U.S. Chefs d'Equipe at the Olympic Games (l-r) Mark Phillips, Eventing; George Morris, Show Jumping; and Klaus Balkenhol, Dressage

Photo by Mary Hilton/TheHorseSports.com

Dressage, Show Jumping, and Eventing

In addition to the Olympic Games, the total budgets for each of the three Olympic disciplines amounted to more than one million dollars each.

Show Jumping programs included costs for coaching, the Samsung Super League in which the U.S. finished sixth overall, the Developing Rider Tour, the Talent Search Finals, and the World Cup™ Show Jumping Final in Gothenburg, Sweden, where the U.S. sent 10 riders.

The Dressage budget included coaching, Elite Rider Training Sessions, Pre-Games Training and Competition, Olympic Selection Trials, and the World Cup™ Dressage Final in s'Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands.

Eventing programs included coaching, Pre-Games Training and Competition, Developing Rider Training Sessions, and Veterinary Evaluations.



EVENTING



DRIVING



REINING



VAULTING

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Reining

At the World Reining Championship in Manerbio, Italy, the U.S. squad of Pete Kyle, Craig Schmursal, Jordan Larson, and Tom McCutcheon with Chef d'Equipe Jeff Petska won the Team Silver Medal. Larson captured Individual Gold and Schmursal claimed Individual Bronze.

"We didn't have a big budget for Reining, however we were able to fund the staff that went to Manerbio to make sure they had a veterinarian, Chef d'Equipe and team leader and provided some funding towards shipping the horses," Wolf said.

Again, it was transporting horses that incurred the lion's share of the reiners' budget. "It's expensive to ship horses to Italy, and then they had road transportation to the venue," Wolf pointed out. All told, it cost approximately \$15,000 roundtrip for each horse shipped to the World Championship. Additional costs included accommodations for the athletes and support staff, training and coaching.

The Reining budget also included funding for the FEI Reining Masters and the Open Reining Championship.

Driving

Driving had two Championships in 2008. At the World Four-In-Hand Driving Championship in Beesd, The Netherlands, the U.S. team of James Fairclough, Tucker Johnson, and Chester Weber with Ed Young as Chef d'Equipe claimed fifth in team competition. Weber triumphed when he secured the Individual Silver Medal.

At the 2008 World Singles Driving Championship in Jarantow, Poland, the U.S. team comprised of Donna Crookston, Robin Groves, and William Peacock led by Chef d'Equipe Ed Young made their international debut and placed 11th in team competition. Team alternate Leslie Berndt, competing as an individual, notched 27th against a field of 66 drivers.

The Driving budget included covering costs for the coach, veterinarian, training sessions and CAIO competitions.

"The driving discipline is very expensive because you have a lot of equipment and multiple horses," noted Wolf. "They have two World Championships every year - Ponies and Pairs and then Singles and Fours, and they rotate back and forth.

When we ship a Four-In-Hand team, we pay for five or six horses for each driver and it costs about \$15,000 roundtrip per horse from the east coast of the U.S. to Europe and back, plus all the equipment, so that adds up."

Vaulting

In team competition at the World Vaulting Championships in Brno, Czech Republic, U.S. vaulters Megan Benjamin, Emily Hogye, Mari Inouye, Devon Maitozo, Elizabeth Osborn, Rosey Ross, and Annalise VanVranken with their longeur Lasse Kristensen won the Team Bronze Medal. In individual competition, Osborn claimed eighth, Mary McCormick notched ninth, and Ali Divita placed 16th. Linda Bibbler served as Chef d'Equipe.

Vaulting expenditures in 2008 included domestic training camps/sessions and European competition grants. More than half the budget was spent on the World Championships.

"The Vaulting World Championship expenses were less than the other discipline World Championships because the competition horses are borrowed or leased in the venue country," Wolf pointed out. "There are a lot of people on a team so costs are associated with airlines and housing expenses."

Endurance

At the World Endurance Championship in Terengganu, Malaysia, the U.S. team of Valarie Kanavy, Katharine Brunjes, John Crandell III, Cheryl Dell, Dr. Meg Sleeper, and Jan Worthington competed under the guidance of Chef d'Equipe Becky Hart. The riders faced phenomenal challenges including two horses being struck by lightning while competing. One horse was able to complete the event, while the other was slightly injured and withdrawn. Individually, only 48 out of 126 competitors completed the ride, and Brunjes and Kanavy were among them, placing 24th and 25th. In team competition, the U.S. placed 12th out of 17 nations.

The Endurance budget covered items including coaching fees, veterinary evaluations, World Championship Selection, and training sessions/events.

"It was also less expensive to compete in the Endurance World Championship



Photo by Kenneth Kraus/PhotoSports.com

Sapphire, McLain Ward's Team Gold Medal mount for the 2004 Athens Olympics and 2008 Beijing Olympics, boards a plane bound for Las Vegas to compete in the 2008 Rolex FEI World Cup™ Final for Show Jumping.

because the organizing committee paid to fly the horses over," Wolf explained. "We spent money to send our staff and the support group over, which included veterinarians, team leader and administrators to help manage the team."

Para Equestrian

The U.S. Para Equestrian Team comprised of Barbara Grassmyer, Rebecca Hart, Lynn Seidemann, and Robin Brueckmann, plus Keith Newerla competing as an individual, traveled to Hong Kong, China, for the Paralympic Games. Missy Ransehausen served as Chef d'Equipe and Sharon Schneidemann was assistant coach. The team finished in 10th place. Individually, Hart was barely edged out of the medals, claiming fourth.

The Para Equestrian budget included costs for coaching, training, and Selection Trials. The USET Foundation made a special grant of \$50,000 for the U.S. Paralympic Team to ensure the team had sufficient support staff including a veterinarian to travel with the team.

Donors to the USET Foundation can be proud of how their dollars were stewarded and what they enabled the United States Equestrian Team to accomplish world-wide in 2008. ■



ENDURANCE



PARA EQUESTRIAN



DRESSAGE



SHOW JUMPING

USET Foundation Hosts George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Session Luncheon

Celebrating the final day of the 2009 George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Sessions presented by Bates Saddles, the USET Foundation hosted a luncheon honoring this year's participants. The luncheon was held on January 9 at the South Grounds of the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, FL.

Riders chosen for the sessions were Victoria Birdsall, Carolyn Curcio, Jacqueline Lubrano, Chelsea Moss, and Jessica Springsteen – based on their Bates Equitation List rankings. Taylor Land was chosen as USEF National Junior Jumper Individual Champion, and Matthew Metell was chosen as the wild card based on his performance.

Top Olympic riders and trainers Beezie Madden, McLain Ward, Laura Kraut, Robert Dover, and Anne Kursinski conducted mounted sessions at the clinic. Riders also participated in sessions taught by professionals in their fields, including presentations on veterinary medicine, nutrition, farriers, drugs and medications,



(l-r) John Madden, Jacqueline Lubrano, Carolyn Curcio, Sophie Benjamin, Matthew Metell, Chelsea Moss, Victoria Birdsall, Jessica Springsteen, Taylor Land, and USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins

how animals learn through positive reinforcement, and alternate methods of managing and treating equine pain.

During the luncheon, USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins spoke on behalf of the organization, thanking the riders for their enthusiasm and dedication as some of the top rising stars of the sport.

"The USET Foundation is proud to help support this program and recognizes the importance of providing talented young riders with the opportunities to train with our country's Olympic athletes and coaches," Jenkins stated. She presented each rider with a gift to commemorate this special experience.

John Madden also addressed the riders, explaining how great it was to see the future ambassadors of the sport working to further their knowledge. Madden stressed the importance of good horsemanship in being successful and praised each of the riders for their participation, hard work and commitment to the equestrian sport. ■ – **Lauren Fisher**



Gold Medal Olympic Show Jumping Clinic Series At Historic Gladstone

The Gold Medal Olympic Show Jumping Clinic Series will be held at the historic training facility at Hamilton Farm in Gladstone, NJ. The series will offer a spring clinic with Olympic Gold Medalist Joe Fargis and will continue in the fall with Olympic Team Gold Medalist McLain Ward. The clinics will benefit the USET Foundation and its fundraising efforts for the High Performance equestrian teams.

The clinics will take place on May 23-24 and November 21-22, 2009. Each clinic will have a maximum of 24 participants, with three sections of eight participants each. The space for auditors is unlimited.

Riders will receive two hours of clinic instruction for two days, as well as breakfast and lunch daily, one complimentary auditing seat, stabling at Hamilton Farm, and initial bedding. Auditors will have the opportunity to observe all clinic sessions and will receive breakfast and lunch daily.



McLain Ward and Sapphire
Team Gold Medalist
2004 Athens Olympic Games
2008 Beijing Olympic Games

Joe Fargis is one of the most successful riders ever to represent the United States Equestrian Team in international competition. During the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, Fargis and the great mare, Touch of Class, won the show jumping Individual Gold Medal and helped the U.S. win Team Gold. He was also a member

of the Team Silver Medal squad during the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

McLain Ward began his riding career at a young age and has become one of the most successful and talented show jumping riders in the world. Together with his famous mount Sapphire, he was a member of the Gold Medal Team at the 2004 Athens Olympics and the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Sponsoring the clinics are The New Gladstone Market, Peapack-Gladstone Bank, and FarmVet.

For further information, contact Paul Long, USET Foundation Assistant Director of Development. ■ – **Jennifer Wood**



Joe Fargis and Touch of Class
Individual and Team Gold Medalist
1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games

Jacqueline B. Mars Competition and Training Grant Awarded to Jennie Brannigan

The USET Foundation is pleased to announce that the Jacqueline B. Mars International Competition and Training Grant has been awarded to 21-year-old Jennie Brannigan of San Diego, CA. The grant is given to an Eventing rider who has been identified and recommended by the USEF Eventing Selectors as having an impressive record and the potential to represent the United States in future international competition.

Brannigan has been named to the Developing Rider List twice, first with Cosmo in 2007 and then with Cooper in 2008. She has worked with Cooper for more than three years, bringing the now eight-year-old up through the levels from Beginner Novice to Advanced. The duo accumulated an impressive list of national awards in 2008 – they won the Intermediate Gold Cup Series, Brannigan was named Young Rider of the Year, and Cooper was named Intermediate Horse of the Year.

Brannigan's biggest and most meaningful win was at the 2008 North American Junior/Young Riders Championships where



Jennie Brannigan and Cooper

she and Cooper were double Gold Medalists in Eventing – winning the Individual Gold and helping their region to claim Team Gold.

Brannigan is currently working for Olympic Gold Medalist Phillip Dutton. She plans to use the grant to travel with Cooper to the Bramham CCI*** in England in June, which will be her first international competition. The grant will help pay for Cooper's airfare and can offset expenses such as entries, fuel, accommodations, and more. With the experience that she gains from this trip, Brannigan hopes to represent the United States in future competitions as well.

"It's amazing," said Brannigan on winning the grant. "I'm really honored because a lot of amazing people have gotten this grant. I'm thrilled to go to England and get international experience on a horse that's as talented as Cooper. It means so much to me, and I'm so excited. I don't financially have the backing to do this alone. I definitely wouldn't be going to Bramham this spring if I didn't get the grant. It's huge." ■ – **Jennifer Wood**

Photo by Brant Gamma



Eugene R. Mische Recognized With USEF Lifetime Achievement Award

At the 2009 USEF Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, OH, Eugene R. "Gene" Mische was presented with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the Pegasus Awards Ceremony. It was a great honor for Mische, who has focused his equestrian career and activities in Florida for more than four decades.

"He has changed the face of the sport," said USEF President David O'Connor.

In the 1950s, Mische, owner of Imperial Farm in Palmetto, FL, started training horses in Cleveland, OH. He moved on to managing horse shows and planned the first winter show circuit. He also promoted the first outdoor grand prix held in the United States.

Mische formed Stadium Jumping, Inc. in 1973 as a horse show production company. He ran the Sunshine Circuit in Florida for riders to compete outdoors in the winter months. The following year was the start of the Winter Equestrian Festival, which has grown into the largest equestrian competition in the U.S.

Mische also launched the USET Festival of Champions, hosted the first two World Cup Finals in Baltimore and Tampa, managed the National Horse Show for six years in Florida, and produced



Gene Mische

Olympic Trials for show jumping and dressage. Stadium Jumping, Inc., which Mische runs with his nephew Michael Morrissey, is the production company for several major shows including the Charlotte Jumper Classic, Budweiser American Invitational, Lake Placid Horse Show, New Albany Classic, and American Gold Cup.

One of Mische's many contributions to the sport was to eliminate the Green Jumper divisions and create the system of Preliminary, Intermediate, and Open Jumpers. This system was a sensible and workable bridge to the Open Jumpers. In addition, Stadium Jumping, Inc. created the numerical scoring system for hunters and was the first company to hold a hunter classic.

"This success is not mine alone – I'm just a spoke in the wheel," said Mische at the ceremony. "I'm overwhelmed. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be up on this stage receiving this award. It puts me in the company of legends."

Mische is currently an advisor to the Winter Equestrian Festival and is a proud supporter of his grandnephew Michael Morrissey, an up-and-coming show jumper. ■ – **Jennifer Wood**

Photo by Geoff Oliver Bugbee/USEF

USET Foundation Hosts Successful Fundraiser At HITS Desert Circuit

The USET Foundation, along with the U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe George H. Morris, hosted a wine and dinner party on Friday, February 20, in the VIP area of the covered arena on the HITS Desert Circuit horse show grounds. More than 175 guests made the party a successful fundraiser for the U.S. Show Jumping High Performance Program.

The party was held during the Six Bar Open Jumper class and the Modified Junior/Amateur Jumper Classic. It featured a live auction of exclusive USET memorabilia as well as an exciting Calcutta for Saturday night's World Cup Grand Prix.

The live auction saw heated bidding on USET items such as a historic USET trunk used by U.S. Equestrian Teams in their travels around the world in the 1960s and '70s. The trunk went to Josie Cassens, a 10-year-old rider and George Morris's biggest fan. A USET Blanket Set went to Archie Cox, while Roxanne Tallman won

a Beijing Olympic Games poster signed by the Gold Medal winning Show Jumping team plus Gina Miles and Steffen Peters. Will Simpson, a member of the Gold Medal team, was on hand to encourage guests in their bidding.

Robin and Gerry Parsky were the big winners in the Calcutta competition when their chosen horses in the World Cup Grand Prix finished first and third. Anita Beaubien took home the second place share of the pool.

The party raised more than \$30,000 for the U.S. High Performance Show Jumping Program. USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins said, "We are most grateful to the entire HITS staff, particularly Tony Hitchcock, John Eickman and Chris Pace, who were welcoming and worked hard to ensure the event's success."

Bridlewood Vineyards of Santa Ynez, CA, and Signe Ostby and Scott Cook, generously donated the wine for the evening. ■ - **Jennifer Wood**



Mike Moran, George Morris, and Will Simpson



Ashlee Bond, George Morris and Karl Cook



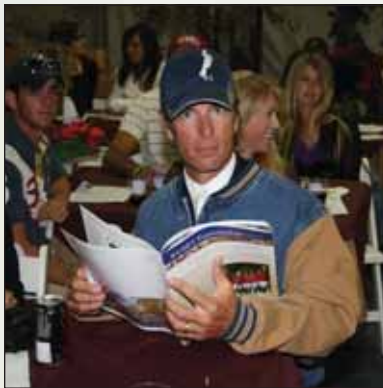
Will Simpson, Bonnie Jenkins, and Tony Hitchcock



Steve and Cindy Bond, George Morris, and Ashlee Bond



Karen Healey, Fred Bauer, and Lizzy Chesson



Richard Spooner



Tom Livermore and Scott Cook



Sarah Kelly, Jane Wiltz, and Melanie Brooks



Signe Ostby



Whitney Weidner, Deborah Klein, Katie Berney, and Dori Beattie



Will Simpson, tack trunk winner Josie Cassens, and George Morris



*(l-r front row) Jessica Katz, Cameron Butler
(l-r back row) Brittany Baron,
Colleen Duscher, Brandee Beattie*



Will Simpson, Archie Cox, and George Morris



Olympians and Special Award Winners Honored at USET Foundation Reception

The USET Foundation Board of Trustees hosted a cocktail reception to honor the 2008 Olympians and the recipients of the Foundation's Gold Medal Club Anniversary Awards, the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, and the Whitney Stone Cup. The reception was held on Friday, January 30, 2009, at the Players Club in Wellington, FL.

A video of highlights from the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong featured the U.S. teams for show jumping, dressage, and eventing and showcased the outstanding performances that won the Team Gold Medal in show jumping, Individual Silver in eventing, and Individual Bronze in show jumping.

The party honored the riders, owners, team leaders, and veterinarians of the Olympic horses. Also recognized were the

10, 15, 20, and 25 year members of the Gold Medal Club – the loyal and generous supporters of the USET Foundation. The members have been a vital and essential source of support to the U.S. equestrian teams. A special award was presented to Frances B. Steinwedell, who has been giving at the Gold Medal Club level for 30 years.

USET Foundation President Jane F. Clark and Executive Director Bonnie B. Jenkins led the presentations. Other trustees in

attendance were Senior Vice President Brownlee O. Currey, Jr., Secretary Eric L. Straus, Treasurer Lawrence G. Tribble, Kim Boyer, R. Bruce Duchossois, Eric Hasbrouck, S. Tucker S. Johnson, Anne Kursinski (alternate rider on the 2008 Olympic Show Jumping Team), Arlene Page, Melanie Smith Taylor, Bill Weeks, and Ted Weise.

"Honoring our Olympians from the 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong was fantastic," said Jenkins. "It was also special to have our incredible Gold Medal Club donors there, especially Fran Steinwedell who received an award for 30 years of Gold Medal Club giving. Recognizing the donors' loyalty and generosity in support of these athletes really highlighted the role of the USET Foundation and the impact it makes on this country's high performance programs." ■ – **Jennifer Wood**



*Gold Medal Club 30 Year award presentation:
Jane F. Clark and Frances B. Steinwedell*



Brownlee and Agneta Currey



Tucker Johnson and Eric Straus



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and Julie Montgomery*



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and Jack Wetzel*



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*Olympic Dressage Team alternate rider
Michael Barisone and Vera Barisone*



Olympic Dressage Team award presentation: Steffen Peters, Akiko Yamazaki, Courtney King-Dye, Michael Barisone, Dr. Rick Mitchell, and Gil Merrick



Frances B. Steinwedell, Carlene Blunt, and Janne Rumbough



Frédéric and Kim Boyer, and Courtney King-Dye



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Gold Medal Club 10 Year award presentation: Jane F. Clark, Gregory Gingery, Margaret Duprey, Jenny and Kermit S. Sutton, Mary Anne McPhail and Evelyn O'Sullivan of the Palm Beach Dressage Derby, and Paul Long



Laura Noyes and George Williams



John Madden, 2008 Olympic Show Jumper Bezie Madden, Jenny Sutton, and Kermit S. Sutton



Gold Medal Club 20 Year award presentation: Jane F. Clark, Chrystine Tauber, Judy Richter, Karen Lloyd, and George Tauber



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Eventing Team award presentation: Captain Mark Phillips, Phillip Dutton, Bruce Duchossois, Karen O'Connor, Becky Holder, and Sara Ike



Olympic Show Jumping Team award presentation: Jane F. Clark, Robert and Sandra Mockoviak, Anne Kursinski, Bezie Madden, Laura Kraut, Peter Wetherill, and Lizzy Chesson

Laura Noyes Presented with Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Award

Laura Noyes, 21, of Delaware, OH, was awarded the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, which recognizes a Junior/Young Rider who exemplifies the USET Foundation's ideals of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

"I was quite shocked when I got the phone call from Bonnie Jenkins at the USET Foundation," Noyes said. "This has been such an incredible year for us and I thought it was over! I'm so honored to be presented with this award. It is definitely one of the greatest successes of my career thus far."

Noyes has been partnered with her 14-year-old Trakehner gelding, Syncro, for six years. In 2008, the duo earned Reserve National Champion at the Collecting Gaits Farm/USEF Dressage Festival of Champions; Individual Gold and Team Silver at the FEI North American Young Rider Championships (NAYRC); and represented the U.S. at the FEI World Cup™ Dressage Final for Young Riders in Frankfurt, Germany. At NAYRC, Noyes also won the United States Dressage Federation's Fiona Baan "Pursuit of Excellence" Memorial Trophy and the "Dressage Style" award.



Laura Noyes (center) receives the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy from USET Foundation President and CEO Jane F. Clark and an Hermès saddle from Hermès Equestrian Sales Manager Julien LeCompte.

Photo by Jennifer Wood/PMG

Describing what the criteria of the Hermès Trophy means to her, Noyes said "sportsmanship is always doing what's best for your horse ... being supportive of your competitors ... and always trying to be positive." Noyes described horsemanship as "knowing every inch of your horse ... because we ask so much of our horses, we have a huge responsibility to make them as happy and comfortable as we possibly can."

Noyes noted she never expected the success she achieved with Syncro in 2008. "I knew Syncro could do it because he's such a talented horse, although I never thought that he could do

it with me in the driver's seat!" she said. "What really makes all of our success so sweet is that we have done everything together, from First Level on up."

A native of Maine, Noyes has resided in Ohio since 2006. Now a junior at Ohio Wesleyan University, she majors in Zoology. Noyes started training with George Williams in Florida in 2005 and currently rides for him at Chuck and Joann Smith's Gypsy Woods Farm in Ohio. ■ – **Mary Hilton**



Steffen Peters Awarded Whitney Stone Cup

Steffen Peters, 44, of San Diego, CA, was presented with the Whitney Stone Cup, awarded annually by the USET Foundation to an active competitor who displays consistent excellence in international competition and high standards of sportsmanlike conduct while serving as an ambassador for the United States and equestrian sport.

"This was certainly a big honor, especially when I read later on what defines this honor," Peters said. "That was very special, considering all the people that have won this award before me. To be among that group feels very, very special. It certainly means a lot to receive this award."

At the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Peters riding Ravel, a 10-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, was the highest-placed American dressage rider, earning fourth place, and was edged out of the Individual Bronze by just 0.3%.

"We were all hoping for that Bronze Medal, and then it didn't happen," Peters recounted. "Coming out of the ring, one has to show a very good positive attitude. It doesn't do any good to be



Steffen Peters receives the Whitney Stone Cup from Brownlee O. Currey, Jr., Vice President of the USET Foundation.

Photo by Jennifer Wood/PMG

negative at that time. Overall, having good team spirit, working with everyone together, can make the difference in being a good sportsman and ambassador for your country."

Peters has represented the U.S. for 12 years, including at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, where he and Udon helped win Team Bronze; the 2003 CDIO Aachen, where he and Grandeur helped clinch Team Silver; and the 2006 FEI World Equestrian Games, where he and Floriano secured Team Bronze. In 2008, Peters and Ravel won the National Grand Prix Dressage Championship at the Collecting Gaits Farm/USEF Festival of Champions. Peters also won the USEF Equestrian of the Year Award.

Peters credited his horses and support group for his success, noting, "Akiko Yamazaki, Ravel's owner, has been incredibly supportive.

Certainly my wife Shannon as a coach deserves a lot of credit, Tom Meyers, who has been our equine therapist for many years, and my good friend 'Rafa' – Rafael Hernandez, my groom. So when we talk about international standards, you never win by yourself. It always takes a team effort and I've been blessed with an amazing support group." ■ – **Mary Hilton**

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Gladstone to Host 2009 Collecting Gaits Farm/USEF Dressage Festival of Champions

On June 18 through 21, the top 12 qualified riders from five divisions will be at USET Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, NJ, for the 2009 Collecting Gaits Farm / USEF Dressage Festival of Champions. Riders will go head-to-head to determine the winners of the USEF National Dressage Championships for Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, Young Adult "Brentina Cup," Young Rider, and Junior.

The five-championship format was introduced at Gladstone in 2007. "It was the first time we had all five National Championships together, so the Juniors and the Young Riders and the Young Adults were all here with the top small tour riders and the top Grand Prix riders, which really made it exciting for the younger people," pointed out Gil Merrick, USEF Managing Director, Dressage Sport Programs. "They're very much a part of the National Championships at the highest level.

"We had Young Riders and Juniors who got in their trucks and drove from the West Coast to come to Gladstone. They really invested themselves fully to get here. There's a cachet about Gladstone for people who know the history of it. I was surprised how many of the younger riders knew exactly what Gladstone means to our sport and to be a part of that legacy was very meaningful. It's a place that they want to put on their résumé – they want to be able to say they've competed at Gladstone."

The 2010 Dressage Festival of Champions and the dressage Selection Trials for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ Kentucky 2010 will also be held at Gladstone. Depending on timing for other events, the 2010 Dressage Festival of Champions and the WEG Selection Trials could be held together. Gladstone will also be the training base for the U.S. Dressage Team for the WEG prior to their travel to Lexington. ■ – Mary Hilton

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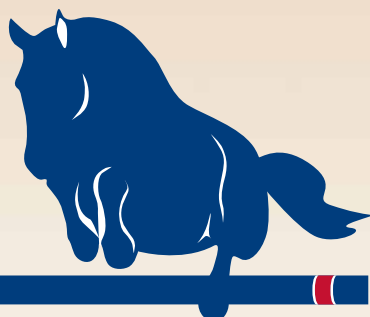
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