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[CURLY AFFILIATE]

American Bashkir Curly Registry

Strives for Success With Awards Program

SUBMITTED BY LIZ MATTKE

ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF membership with the American Bashkir Curly Registry (ABCR) is the annual Awards Program, which recognizes outstanding horses and riders based on points accumulated in designated divisions. Since Curly horses can really do it all—from dressage to barrel racing to driving to trail—the ABCR has created a diverse awards program to honor the different talents of riders and horses. This month, we want to celebrate and recognize the Awards Program recipients of the past year and encourage all ABCR members to participate in this exciting and rewarding program.

Diane Mitchell, with her stallion, Copper Sun, was presented with the Hall of Fame Award for both the Breeding and Performance division. Copper has participated in numerous parades in California, Arizona, and Texas, including the 2000 and 2003 Rose Parades! Copper

also competed in endurance, and Diane's fondest compliment of him was when one vet said, "He finished in better condition than many horses started in!" Diane has shown Copper extensively as a gaited Curly and walked away with many, many ribbons. Copper is a breeding stallion too, and people don't often realize this because of his gentle and accepting nature. He has over 30 get on the ground—they are continuing his legacy by being used for breeding, showing, and therapeutic riding programs. Copper Sun has shown his great versatility and his wonderful personality in all he has done, and he has left a lasting impression on those who have met him. Diane also won Reserve Champion Frequent Rider in the Casual Rider division for miles and miles ridden under saddle.

The Grand Champion Frequent Rider—in the Casual Rider division—was Gayleen Erwin, who rode over 500 miles this past year with her tried and true Curly horse, Contessa. Contessa won Grand Champion Frequent Rider in the Casual Horse division. The Frequent Rider Program—Casual division—grants the rider and the horse points for all forward movement in the saddle, excluding parades, demos, and shows.

Lily Williams, a seventh grader from Oregon, won the Grand Champion National Youth Award with her Curly horse, Arwen Evenstar, nicknamed "Winnie." Winnie also received the Reserve Grand Champion Performance Horse Award. Together, they make an unstoppable team competing in the 4-H circuit and often bring home grand and reserve champion ribbons. Lily credits her horse with teaching her how to become a better rider. Lily rides Winnie in both western and English, but loves to ride bareback the best.

DCC Traveler, Elisabeth Mattke's Curly stallion, was awarded the Grand Champion National Performance Horse, Grand Champion Versatility Horse and Grand Champion Frequent Rider in the



Competitive Horse Division. Traveler competes in USEA-recognized three-day eventing and qualified for the Area 7 Open Championships in the Novice division. In addition to jumping and dressage, Traveler participates in endurance races, clinics, and demos. His natural athleticism and calm and gentle personality make him the perfect Curly ambassador in the open horse show world.

To be eligible for the versatility program, the horse must participate in at least four different events throughout the year, including: shows, roping, demos, clinics, organized trail rides, and more. This is a great way to demonstrate the versatile nature of the Curly horse. In addition to the awards listed above, ABCR members can also sign up and participate in gymkhana and in-hand award programs.

The final award presented at the ABCR conference in Reno, NV, was to Caren Schumann from Germany. Caren won the ABCR Breed Promotion award, which is presented to people who undertake exceptional efforts to promote the Curly breed. Caren has provided the registry with endless time, energy, and assistance with stud books, rulebooks and creating and maintaining the registry website. Caren discovered the Curly horse while researching allergy medicine for her husband, and she now has a total of nine Curly horses living in harmony in Cologne, Germany.

The registry would like to thank the members who participated in the 2012 Awards Program and encourages all members to sign up for the Awards Program. More information can be found at abcregistry.org under "About" and then "Forms." **E**

From the President

Hello and Happy Holidays!

I hope this finds everyone well and happily awaiting the holidays! Those of us with Curly horses eagerly await the cold weather and the beautiful curl that comes with the change in season. Winter is especially delightful for those of us with Curly horses. The hair patterns are different every year. We tend to take lots of pictures this time of year.

I hope everyone had the opportunity to see the featured article of the Curly horse in the November issue of *Horse Illustrated*. It was well done, and the American Bashkir Curly Registry was well represented. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the article.

This is also the time of year for membership renewal! You can choose to renew online or via snail mail. Remember, your membership includes the *Equine Journal*.

Best wishes and happy holidays to all. Be safe, and be kind to one another!

~Melinda Martino, President