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Fall/Winter 2013

Welcome to the inaugural issue of "Say Hay," AMHA's Youth quarterly newsletter! Many thanks to USEF Youth Sportsman's Award Grant for helping to underwrite this effort. The AMHA Board of Directors chose to use these funds for educational initiatives and outreach in 2013. Please join us in thanking USEF for funding this edition of "Say Hay!"

If you have any news items, events, or celebrations that you would like to see included in upcoming issues of this new youth newsletter, please send them to us! We want to hear from YOU!



American Morgan Horse Association  
4066 Shelburne Rd; Suite 5  
Shelburne, VT 05482  
P 802/985-4944  
F 802/985-8897

[Taylor@morganhorse.com](mailto:Taylor@morganhorse.com)

**Also, like us on Facebook! Search for: American Morgan Horse Association Youth "Say Hay"**

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## News Briefs

### We Want Your Selfie!

Did you attend the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show and receive one of the free t-shirts given away to Junior Exhibitors? If so, we want to see! Send us your photos of you wearing the youth t-shirt to [Taylor@morganhorse.com](mailto:Taylor@morganhorse.com).

### AMHECT Announces Fred Herrick Scholarship

The American Morgan Horse Educational Charitable Trust (AMHECT) is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for a one-time scholarship in honor and memory of Fred Herrick.

AMHECT President Harry Sebring said, "AMHECT is honored to assist the family and friends of Fred Herrick by establishing this one-time scholarship. Applicants will be asked to complete an essay that addresses the influence Mr. Herrick had on the Morgan harness horse and how the horses he showed and trained impacted the Morgan breed."

Julie Broadway, AMHA Executive Director added, "Donations are still coming in for the scholarship [the final deadline is December 31, 2013], but at this time, the amount appears to be somewhere in the range of \$750-\$1000."

Criteria and application forms may be found at <http://www.amhect.org/programs/scholarships/>. The application deadline is January 1, 2014. The

## Meet Your AMHA Youth Council!

*Throughout the next few issues, we will be featuring a member of the AMHA Youth Council. With this first issue, we start out with the Vice President of Public Relations, Cassidy Spreadbury.*

Hi Morgan Youth!

My name is Cassidy Spreadbury and I am your new Vice President of Public Relations! I would just like to tell everyone a little bit about myself:

I am a 15 (16 this month!) year old sophomore at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School. My favorite subjects are AP European History and Algebra 2. I'm a sports-a-holic with a particular passion for the Green Bay Packers and Alabama Crimson Tide. One of the things I'm famous among my friends for is my cooking and baking abilities. Our monthly Fiesta's at my place are always a blast, Mexican food-themed



or not! In the future, I would love to attend USC, the University of Miami, or the University of California-Berkeley to study Marine Biology. All my friends will tell you that I have a slight shark obsession.

I own a very sweet, 12 year-old Morgan gelding named La Homa Nicodemus "Nick". He was my hunter pleasure, equitation, and road hack mount until he got sick and injured, but is on the mend and we are hoping to get him back in the ring to continue his career with a young rider! Last season I leased and showed Kathy Gutting's beautiful gelding, Playmor's Imperial Star "Scooter". He's a very sweet, loving boy and was a complete blast to show!

As you can see, I like to talk. A LOT. But we want to hear from you! So please send us your comments and ideas. We would love to talk to you, and who knows, you could end up in the newsletter! We love to let the Morgan Youth know what's happening and who's in their council!

Last month at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show®, we had our annual meeting and some of the main points were:

1. Scheduling a November teleconference to discuss goals for the upcoming year. All on the Executive Committee will gather by phone the week before Thanksgiving for this teleconference.
2. One of the big things brought up was the idea to conduct the Youth of the Year written exam and speech over the computer. The Youth of the Year participants would still need to qualify and the interview part of the competition would still take place at Grand Nationals. There was also an agreement in not opening the competition to the junior division at this time.
3. All agreed to have a quarterly e-newsletter. Taylor and I will be responsible for gathering stories. There will be an "Ask the Judge" in each one starting with the next issue.
4. Members want to hold a meeting/event at the annual Morgan Convention which is in Raleigh, North Carolina, February 20-22, 2014. It will be an educational meeting.
5. We will discuss Conner's idea of a fundraiser at the teleconference in a couple weeks.

In the next issue, look for an interview with our great AMHA Youth Council President, Rebecca Jones! Thanks everyone for reading, and I can't wait to hear more from and about all of you!

Cassidy

recipient will be announced at the AMHA Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina, on February 22, 2014.

Donations may be made to the AMHECT, c/o Fred Herrick Scholarship, 4066 Shelburne Rd, Suite 6, Shelburne VT 05482.

## Horsemastership Achievers

The AMHAY Horsemastership Program is designed to help you become a competent horseperson. The five successive levels of testing are designed to increase knowledge of the Morgan breed and general horsemanship while receiving recognition for hard work. Congratulations to the following AMHAY Horsemastership Achievers for their hard work and dedication to the Morgan breed!

For more information on this program or to obtain your copy of the guidelines please contact, Taylor Royals at AMHA, (802) 985-4944 ext. 401, [taylor@morganhorse.com](mailto:taylor@morganhorse.com).

Sydney Cheong; Bulrush, Woodbury and Sherman  
Riley Edens; Bulrush  
Emily Frazier; Bulrush, Woodbury and Sherman  
Natalie Golota; Bulrush, Woodbury and Sherman  
Sophie Heins; Bulrush, Woodbury and Sherman  
Catherine Jones; Sherman  
Zoie Marsh; Woodbury  
Mackenzie Meier; Bulrush, Woodbury and Sherman  
Kaylee Shearer; Woodbury  
Abigail Simmons; Sherman  
Ada Staley; Sherman  
Kate Rawlinson; Black Hawk  
Jesse Walker; Bulrush, Woodbury and Sherman  
Dana Weiner; Sherman

## AMHA Represented at U.S. Pony Club Convention

The United States Pony Club has their annual convention January 22-26, 2014 in Portland, Oregon. AMHA will be having a booth full of information for those attending. The purpose of this booth will be promotion of AMHA's Youth programs. If you are in the area and plan to attend, be sure to visit the booth! Stay tuned for more information on this exciting opportunity to promote our Youth and the Morgan horse!

# AMHA for YOUTH!

The American Morgan Horse Association Youth (AMHAY) is an international organization of young people who have a common interest in the Morgan horse. It was designed for you, the horse crazy one! We offer a variety of programs that challenges members to learn, become involved, to develop competence as well as making friends and memories for a lifetime.



### Horsemastership Program

Let this program help you become a competent horseperson. There are five levels that are designed to increase your knowledge of the Morgan breed and general horsemanship while you receive recognition. Pins, certificates and special prizes are given to each level.



### AMHA Youth Achievement Award

You will earn points in a variety of categories that includes youth programs participation, breed promotion and community service. Award winners are recognized at the AMHA Annual Convention.



### AMHA Open Competition Program

The AMHA Open Competition Program rewards members competing with their Morgans against other breeds. Within this program Junior Exhibitors are presented with Year-End Awards (1st-6th place) in six divisions. The overall Junior Exhibitor Champion of each division has the opportunity to be recognized at the AMHA Annual Convention.



### Youth Council

The AMHA Youth Council is composed of 17 members, each selected for his or her devotion to the breed, creativity, and professionalism. We welcome all youth interested in governance and leadership roles to run for the positions that form the Executive Committee.



### AMHA YOY Program

Youth of the Year contests reward those who are well-versed in horsemanship skills. The winner of this title receives a unique prize package customized by the winner valued at \$2,500. Local and regional contests are open to youth of all ages, but only those aged 14 years and older can qualify to compete in Oklahoma.



### Youth Clubs

AMHA offers exciting club contests and awards for AMHAY Clubs. Club contests are a great way to generate camaraderie amongst club members and learn new skills along the way.



## 2013 Grand National Contest Winners!

**Congratulations to these youth contests winners at the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show@!**

### Youth Clubs

#### AMHA Youth Club of the Year

1.Youth With A Morgan Youth Group; 2.Tropical Trotters Youth Group; 3. Morgan Midgets Youth Group

#### AMHA Youth Educational Display

1. Mighty Morgans Youth Group; 2.Tropical Trotters Youth Group; 3.Youth With A Morgan Youth Group; 4. Morgan Midgets Youth Group

### Youth of the Year

#### Written Exam

1. Mackenzie Meier; 2.Natalie Golota; 3.Sydney Cheong; 4. Jesse Walker; 5.Emily Frazier; 6.Sandra Spearman

#### Oral Presentations

1. Mackenzie Meier; 2.Natalie Golota; 3.Sydney Cheong; 4. Emily Frazier; 5.Sandra Spearman; 6.Jesse Walker

#### Horsemanship Pattern

1. Sydney Cheong; 2.Mackenzie Meier; 3. Natalie Golota; 4. Sandra Spearman; 5.Jesse Walker; 6.Emily Frazier

#### Brook Burress Memorial Trophy

Sydney Cheong

#### Horse Judging

1.Mackenzie Meier; 2.Emily Frazier; 3.Natalie Golota; 4. Sydney Cheong; 5. Jesse Walker; 6.Sandra Spearman

#### Shirley Givens Memorial Trophy

Mackenzie Meier

#### Tristanne Weber Childress Memorial Sportsmanship Award

Mackenzie Meier



### Speech Contest

#### Senior Division

1.Morgan Wright

#### Junior Division

1.Dawson Archibald; 2.Taylor Hudson; 3. Jennifer Karner;  
4. Erin Baker; 5.Lucy Enns

### Judging Workshop

#### Senior Division Performance

1. Kate Rawlinson; 2. Morgan Wright

#### Junior Division Performance

1.Kate Ramsower; 2.Taylor Hudson; 3. Aussia Stander;  
4. Erin Baker; 5. Sarah Landmeyer; 6. Natalie Woodland

#### Senior Division In-Hand

1.Kate Rawlinson; 2. Morgan Wright

#### Junior Division In-Hand

1. Erin Baker; 2. Katla Michaelson; 3. Reagan Angell;  
4. Sarah Landmeyer; 5. Natalie Woodland; 6. Aussia Stander

#### Overall High Scoring Junior

Kate Ramsower

#### Overall High Scoring Senior

Kate Rawlinson

#### William Dayton Sumner High-Point Award

Kate Ramsower

#### AMHA Youth Sportsmanship Award

Lucy Enns



## Meet Your Youth of the Year--Past and Present!



From left to right: Ellery Walker and Mackenzie Meier. (Photos by Howard Schatzberg and Andy)

In this edition we asked the current Youth of the Year, Mackenzie Meier, and the 2012 Youth of the Year, Ellery Walker, about winning this prestigious title and what it took to get to the top.

### Where did you qualify for the National YOY contest?

**Ellery:** I qualified for the National YOY contest at Michigan All-Morgan.

**Mackenzie:** I qualified at the Jubilee Regional Morgan Horse Show

### What made you want to compete for the title of YOY?

**Ellery:** I wanted to compete for the title of YOY because I loved the challenge it presented in becoming more knowledgeable about the Morgan breed. I love everything about the Morgan horse, and YOY gave me the unique opportunity of using my knowledge and skills to share that passion with others. I also loved getting to work with and learn from all the great people--youth and adults--involved in YOY.

**Mackenzie:** I love the Youth of the Year contest because it celebrates youth for showing their skills in various aspects of horsemanship. Normally I am very busy working for my trainer at the shows, but when Jubilee decided to hold a contest, and we only brought a few horses to the show, I jumped at the chance.

### What did you do to prepare for the National contest?

**Ellery:** Most of my preparation for the National contest took place before I was even old enough to compete. I participated in the Junior YOY contest at Michigan All-Morgan for 5 years before I was old enough to compete at Nationals in the Senior Division, and those years gave me time to get used to the structure of the contest and to continue building my knowledge. Once I had qualified for the National contest, I spent most of my time preparing for the speech portion (doing research, writing, memorizing, creating my visual aid, etc.). And of course I reviewed for the test and the judging, too.

**Mackenzie:** I studied a lot! I spent many hours at a coffee shop near by my house taking notes of the books and references for the test. I was lucky enough to have help from my literature teacher, a client at my barn, my mom, and my trainer, Shaughnessy Morris, give me feedback on the my speech! They also sat and listened to me recite it over and over again!

### Was it difficult for you to show at the Grand National and compete for YOY?

**Ellery:** Both years that I competed in YOY at Nationals, I also showed. The second year I was blessed to be able to compete in 4 disciplines (Hunt Equitation on the Flat, Hunter Over Fences, Western Equitation, and Saddle Seat Equitation). While I loved every minute of the show, and I had an absolutely incredible week, it was one of the most chaotic and exhausting weeks of my life. On top of all that, I was a senior in high school, so I was working on homework and college applications in all my free time. Needless to say, participating in YOY was really, really difficult. I didn't get much sleep, I ran from a class to the test, and I had to memorize my entire speech an hour before I gave it. But in the end, it all worked out. Everything fit into its place, and I am so glad that I was able to compete in YOY. It took a tremendous amount of hard work and determination, but the reward was more than worth it.

**Mackenzie:** It wasn't too difficult for me, because I never had classes conflicting with the Youth of the Year events, which I was so happy about! The hardest part was changing from work clothes to nice clothes in the middle of the day!

### What does it mean to you to win this title?

**Ellery:** Winning YOY was, above all things, an incredible honor. It was so exciting to be able to represent the Morgan breed, and to have the ability and resources to reach out and teach others about the incredible horses and people that I have had the privilege of working with. It was also very encouraging to be recognized as more than just a great rider. YOY forced me to grow in so many ways outside of riding itself--knowledge, judging ability, history, public speaking, etc.--and I am so grateful for the versatility it has given me as a Morgan rider.

**Mackenzie:** Winning this title means so much to me. It was my first win at the Grand National. Youth of the Year is such an important title and competition. I am honored to be the recipient of the title this year.

### What advice would you give to others wanting to compete in the National contest?

**Ellery:** To anyone wanting to compete in the National YOY contest--I say you should absolutely go for it. It won't be easy by any means, but it is so, so worth it. You get to meet wonderful people, and you learn more than you ever thought possible. Showing or not, it makes for a busy week, but it is an incredible experience that everyone should take part in. And in the contest itself, the biggest piece of advice I can give is to be yourself. You are talented. You have ideas and an opinion that matters. And you know more than you think you do. You just have to be willing to share!!

**Mackenzie:** Study hard and work hard. Practice. Prepare. Give it all you've got because if you hold back, you'll never know how good you could be!



## Youth Club News

### Mighty Morgans: a.k.a The Busy Bees

On a gorgeous Saturday late morning the Mighty Morgan met with four new members that needed to work on their Bulrush badge work. Assigning the older youth to different topics in the Bulrush requirement book and following the Bulrush workbook, the older youth planned a presentation and a demonstration to teach the younger youth about their topic. It was awesome. The older youth did such an amazing job, they were very good at explaining their topics from experience and they covered the necessary material. Then right after their presentation, the younger youth met in the house and were given the quizzes that covered the topic. They were given time to complete the quiz and ask questions. Then they were graded by the leaders and informed of their results: which were always passing because of the excellent preparation the youth were given by the older youth. This continued the day demonstration and then quiz and so on until we finished five parts of the Bulrush badge. It was a great way for the youth to interact and the adults supervised and assisted the older youth as they learned leadership responsibilities. We plan another one of these days very soon so we can finish up our Bulrush badge work. This was a perfect way to complete Bulrush. This technique may not work for the higher level Horsemastership levels, but it's perfect for the younger youth!

Badge work hasn't been everything we've been working on. Two of our older members, Catherine Jones and Kate Rawlinson are both working towards the Justin Morgan badge. For that badge they have to host a Morgan show and Morgan exhibition. This past summer we held a summer fun horse show, "Fun in the Sun" at the SALT CREEK WRANGLERS arena in Lincoln, NE. After a month of preparation, gathering donations and gifts and help, lots of volunteers were recruited for the big event. Kate and Catherine checked in all the exhibitors for the show and found time to be the trail judges. The judge Deb ADAMS OF HENDERSON, NE, did an awesome job judging this diverse show with a variety of breeds represented. The whole show had over 50 exhibitors and they were there for the entire day showing in pleasure classes such as Western and English with walk trot divisions and junior, intermediate and senior classes!

In some of our spare time recently, we've managed to visit two farms. We visited our Kansas neighbors at Peeper Ranch. Thank you to Dawn Fire and her staff for an amazing tour and awesome demonstrations of their wonderful Morgan horses. The youth learned about the breeding program and bloodlines at Peeper Ranch, we were given a tour of the whole facility and given valuable advice from Dawn Fire. We also visited Cecile Zielinski at Misty Green Farm in Omaha, NE. While there we groomed and loved on her Morgans, as well as learning all about the Misty Green bloodlines.

*Submitted by  
Tracey Jones, Club Leader*

### Tri-Color Champions: Closing Out a Successful Season!

Champion Hill Farm's youth club, Tri-Color Champions, had a great show season. We were well represented at many A rated shows and our members won many championships, reserve championship and 1st place ribbons in Saddle Seat, Hunter, and Academy divisions. We are excited and looking forward to our field trip on November 16 to Ledyard Farms. We will also be working on our handmade Christmas Cards for military personnel who have been injured.

*Submitted by Paula Brickhouse, Club Co-Leader*

Learn more about Morgans with our **Free Activities!**  
( geared towards our youngest horse crazy kids )

Justa' Morgan Fun!  
MORGAN HORSE Anatomical/ Skeletal Page Coloring Sheet  
PUZZLE IT OUT #1-7  
Get Involved!

AMHA Youth

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American Morgan Horse Association | (802) 985-4944 | [info@morganhorse.com](mailto:info@morganhorse.com) | <http://www.morganhorse.com>  
4066 Shelburne Rd  
Suite 5  
Shelburne, VT 05482

