

AMHA 2010 Breeders' Hall of Fame Award Nomination: Kathleen L. DeFazio

Kathy's journey to this nomination began in Alabama in 1972 with registration of the "Scandia" Morgan Farm prefix and purchase of a stallion named Gra Vand Cornell. Her Scandinavian theme originated from Kathy's affection for her Norwegian grandparents. Besides Alabama, Kathleen, and her husband Vincent, have resided in Georgia, Ohio, Washington, and currently live in Oregon.

Living in multiple locations allowed Kathy to personally inspect breeding stock at Serenity, Greenall, Whipporwill, UVM, Garwood, Kennebec, and Triple Creek Morgan farms, to name a few. Multiple farm visits validated the relationship between lineage and the resulting type and personality characteristics likely to surface. These observations made her breeding decisions more predictive and less speculative. Farm visits factored heavily into future mating decisions and led to the purchase of Scandia broodmares from TVM, Lyonhil, Townshend, Garwood, Beckridge, Arduns, Nemours, Treble, Tara, Cascade, Equinox, Funquest, and Futurity farms.

Careful selections from distinguished breeders added new bloodlines, complemented her stallion selections and kept pace with market appeal. Her degree in Fine Arts enabled her to see the three-dimensional Morgan with an artistic eye. Kathleen's consideration did not stop with physical attributes, but also characteristics such as trainability and even fertility. As a result, mare lines with desirable characteristics bred easily and true and were not the result of trends or fads. Scandia-bred mares and herd sires can be found from California to New England and from Canada to Holland.

Scandia-bred stallions include Scandias Bobby McGee, Scandias Trademark, Scandias Caribbean Blue, The Scandinavian, Simply the Best, and Scandias Cassanova, most with double digit foals on the ground. Purchased stallions produced 50 plus foals and include Gra Vand Cornell, Townshend Norseman and UVM Coming Attraction. Breeding programs that are heavily infused with Scandia bloodlines include the Roundabout, Dream Morgans, Dream Catcher Morgans, Remember, Blue Bird, Mtn Song, Teaka Creek, Blackfork and Sunstone prefixes. Sales of herd sires and broodmares were not merely monetary exchanges, but long-term commitments from Kathy. If the buyer fell upon hard times, Kathy would take the horse back, place it, or work out a mutually agreeable arrangement with the buyer, always maintaining dignity and diplomacy. Numerous children benefited from lessons and similar mentoring.

Her horses have successfully competed on state-regional-national stages in a variety of disciplines. Kathy's horses have been high sellers at auctions. Always in the vanguard, Kathy bred some of the first foals by artificial insemination in the Pacific Northwest. She has been an officer or member of multiple Morgan clubs and associations including the AMHA Breeders Committee. She has generated Morgan Internet lists, donated to and managed stallion service auctions and fundraisers and been a guest panelist at Morgan presentations. Memberships have been participatory and philanthropic in nature.

Kathy has registered nearly 100 Morgan horses. Multi-generation breeding stock is the exception these days and Scandia boasts third generation Morgans (sires and dams) who promise to be significant future producers. Kathy's intelligent breeding and culling decisions based on rating scales, pedigree analysis and keen insight yielded a timeless, consistent Morgan type that is true to breed standards. Some call it the "Scandia Look." Breeding programs like Kathy's ensure the survival of this breed. Scandia Morgans will be in demand for years to come, which makes Scandia-bred horses significant and the Morgan horse more sustainable. She is a breeder who deserves recognition and we must celebrate and acknowledge her long term, substantial commitment to the Morgan Horse!



Respectfully submitted,

Marian R. Grimes/ AMHA # 378190