

THE STORIES BEHIND OUR GRTA TROPHIES

Hope Agnew Memorial Trophy: Hope Agnew was often seen trailering ponies and horses around town with her two daughters Lee and Ann. Their first pony "Christmas" came from the Witherbee family and was a treasured pet. Next came a bay pony named "Bray's Island Victor", who could jump the moon. Lee then moved onto a lovely grey horse named "Finian" and Ann to "Licorice", a horse from the Kern Family. The Agnew girls were successful in the show ring and also enjoyed the trails. Their original barn, which is still standing on Close Road, abuts the Greenwich Land Trust meadow donated by the Agnew family as open space.

Back Barn Challenge Trophy: given by Bob and Jeri Freels, recognizing their Back Barn Farms, where many riders trained.

Bolling Memorial Trophy: Given by Dinny Bolling Carroll in memory of her father Raynal "Ray" Bolling, first Master of Fairfield and Westchester Hounds, first Chairman of the GRTA (1914), a pioneer aviator and colonel in the United States Air Service and first officer of high rank killed in World War I in France. A memorial in his honor is at Havemeyer Park and an "oral history" is on the shelves of the Greenwich Library.

Gladys T. Busk Memorial Perpetual Trophy: Awarded to an exhibitor at the Greenwich Horse show who "shows outstanding sportsmanship and is in every way a knowledgeable horseman or horsewoman dedicated to the sport of showing horses in a proficient manner." Gladys Busk was a popular Greenwich horsewoman who died in 1975. In 1956, when she was the mother of four toddlers, Bertalan de Nemethy asked her to train with the U.S. Equestrian Team. She turned down the invitation because it would take her away from her family. She rode with Bob Freels at Harkaway Farm and had many winning horses, including "Polk County", "Battle Pennant", "Good Joe" and "Target Sighted". A memorial from a horse show program describes Gladys Busk: "Although open, direct and honest, she never failed to compliment others on their accomplishments or to have a cheery, helpful word of support for a disheartened friend. Her life seemed to follow the same pattern she used in training her horses and dogs: organized and disciplined yet enthusiastic and loving. She was truly a sportswoman . . ."

Helen Castle Challenge Trophy: pays tribute to one of the dedicated founders of the GRTA, Helen Castles also helped start the Day in the Country show.

Edward B. Close Perpetual Trophy: Given in memory of a member of one of Greenwich's first families. Their estate was located in the area of Close Road. Another memory associated with this trophy, is the Greenwich Horse Show of 1959 when the trophy was first presented. This particular Greenwich Horse Show was held with St. Barnabas Church. A violent storm blew up, knocking over tents and booths and creating quite a scene of frightened horses and riders.

Robert Cornell Challenge Trophy: Pays tribute to one of the most popular vets in the 1970's and 1980's, who successfully treated many horses with ailments minor and serious. Horse owners remember that for routine appointments he sometimes showed up several hours late; but in a true emergency he appeared "almost before I hung up the phone".

Margaret "Peggy" Moore Clucas Challenge Trophy: Peggy grew up on land that over the years hosted The Scottish Games, The Greenwich Horse Show and The Day in the Country and was a long time member of GRTA. Her daughter Alice and "imported pony, 'Thomasina Tittlemouse', rarely fail to finish in the ribbons when they show." ¹

Mike Cullen Memorial Perpetual Trophy: Mrs. Thomas Waller donated this trophy to honor a horse show fixture and character, blacksmith Mike Cullen. Mike Cullen is remembered for his sense of humor and his chess playing. His sons-in-laws, Jimmy and Mike Lynch carried on the family blacksmith business during their lifetimes.

Walter B. Devereux Trophy: A figure of international fame in the horse show world, he loaned "Sinjon" and "Untouchable" to the United States Equestrian Team. He was president and secretary of the American Horse Show Association for many years. His daughter Anne rode in many local shows.

General Ike Memorial Trophy: "Ike" was a bay gelding owned by Mrs. William (Ginny) Coleman. Stabled at Round Hill Stables, he was ridden and shown by her son Jimmy, a member of the Brunswick Horse Show Team.

John G Howland Trophy: A former MFH of the Fairfield Westchester Hunt and past Chairman of the GRTA, Mr. Howland donated a challenge trophy for the Regular Working Hunter Championship. He recalled his hunting days in Greenwich, often astride his grey "Master's Horse", in a 1975 interview. "They would probably meet at six-thirty, and then they'd go to hell bent for two hours, and then come back, turn the horses over to their grooms, get in the car, get dressed, change and down to Wall Street and they were there around ten o'clock." ²

¹ *The Greenwich Social Review, May 1960*

² *Riding to the Hounds, Oral History Interview, The Greenwich Library*

Huntsman Memorial Challenge Trophy: "Huntsman", originally owned by Teddy Wahl, later by Zella Kunhardt and Frances "Frannie" Pryor Haws, is buried near the barn of Sam Pryor's property in Belle Haven alongside his buddy "Golden Arrow". Subsequently both tombstones were relocated, perhaps when Sam Pryor sold his property, to Round Hill Stables . . . currently marking the entrance to the McTaggart's barn.

Lalande McCreery Keeshan Perpetual Memorial Trophy: Donated by her sisters and her children because they wanted an award to go with a class (Pairs Jumping) they felt embodied the spirit of the GRTA. In Pairs Jumping two riders go over a course, changing leaders half way through and going over the last fence in tandem. It's an unusual and fun event that represents the traditions of riding in Greenwich – the enjoyment of going over fences in beautiful countryside. Lalande Keeshan was Whip for the Fairfield Westchester Hounds and a longtime GRTA Director. A memoriam for her which appeared in a Greenwich Horse Show program says simply: "A quiet person ... a very special person".

Kelsey Perpetual Trophy: Honors a family which is practically synonymous with riding in Greenwich. Sis and Tubby Kelsey bought their farm at the end of Lake Avenue in 1947 and purchased ponies for their children, Easy, Sterett, and Trey. Sis began boarding ponies and soon started a summer day camp which continues t this day. She taught children not only how to ride, but the basics of stable management and good sportsmanship. Her daughter Easy, who now runs Kelsey Farm, is a Board Member of the GRTA. The Day in the Country Show is a favorite of the many young riders they teach.

August Klipstein Challenge Trophy: In memory of Peggy Larned's father, August Klipstein

Williams E. Larned Challenge Trophy: In honor of Bill Larned who volunteered as announcer at Day in the Country horse shows for many years.

The Larned Family made significant contribution to riding in Greenwich. Peggy and Bill Larned helped at GRTA events for many years, as well as devoting many hours to the Pegasus riding for the handicapped program. Peggy rode in 1940 on the winning Hunt Team in Madison Square Garden.

Misty My Love Trophy: Donated by her owner, Janie Zukas, "Misty" was a medium grey pony mare who patiently taught countless children to ride over her 25-year lifetime.

Mr. Coker Challenge Trophy: Honors a Canadian bred jumper named for his previous owner, George Coker. As Judy Richter recalls "'Coker' was my constant companion and best friend through all the ups and downs of growing up: adolescence, college, countless horse shows, Olympic trials and just plain fun skylarking around the countryside. 'Coker' even corralled my dear husband . . . [who] was visiting neighbors for the weekend, and . . . my parents invited him over to ride 'Coker'." ³

Emerson Root Newell Memorial Trophy: Given by his wife and son to honor one of the original founders of the Greenwich Riding Association. Also a plaque commemorating *The Newell Trail* was placed at the 13th tee of the Round Hill Club golf course by his friend Henry J. Fisher: "by whom it was planned and marked, who died September 23, 1931 upon the bridle paths which he long had served and cherished."

Fred Nives Memorial Trophy: Awarded to an outstanding trainer, this trophy honors Fred Nives (1921-2015), longtime treasurer of the GRTA. Fred emigrated to the USA in 1940 from Austria, walking at night to Belgium to escape the Nazis. He proudly served in the US Army (1942-1946). An accomplished horseman for over fifty years, he rode in many local hunter pace events and, when not riding, became the "official" timer waving us across the finish lines. His endless smiles, heartfelt friendship, gruff voice and endless jokes are remembered by many. ⁴

Robert Noble Memorial Trophy: Father of GRTA member Migi Serrell, and grandfather of another rider and GRTA volunteer, Pixie Serrell Schmeltzer.

Ol' Blue Eyes: In honor of Ol' Blue Eyes a/k/a "Frankie" - a medium paint pony that taught many children over the years to ride at Country Lane Farm. His specialty was teaching them to canter. Frankie, a pony of a lifetime, lived to the age of 35. He was owned by the Rosato family.

Orbit Trophy: Robin Berol grew up on Cloister Farm in Bedford, NY and this honors her chestnut (with a very large white blaze) junior hunter that she showed successfully.

Frank R. Parker, Jr. Memorial Trophy: Honored with a special sportsmanship trophy given at the Day in the Country by his sisters, Mrs. Charlotte Paine and Mrs. Marion Yearly, Frank Parker died in 1966 during his term as President of the GRTA. He was known as a "sportsman, horseman, courageous, generous, unsparing of himself in high causes, a leader of men and a friend". His love of riding, open space in Greenwich, and sense of

³ *Some Favorite Days* by Judy Richter

⁴ *GRTA program, 2015*

sportsmanship and graciousness has been carried on by his wife, Betty Davies and son, Rusty Parker, both longtime GRTA Board members.

Frank R. Parker Jr. Memorial Trophy: Donated by Jacob Kaufman in memory of "Bud" Parker, former Chairman of GRTA. Mr. Kaufman owned and operated a tack/clothing shop on Greenwich Avenue and later in Banksville. Betty Parker Davies recalls him custom making Bud's and their son Rusty's riding attire.

Primrose Perpetual Trophy: Given in memory of Henry J. Fisher, a founder and past Chairman of GRTA, and in honor of his favorite horse. The Family Horse/Pony class at the Day in the Country judges the horse/pony over fences ridden by one member and then on the flat by another member; showing the horse's versatility as both a safe trails horse and a proficient jumper. This class embodies GRTA tradition . . . families riding together locally to enjoy the beauty of our tails.

Richmond Gray Perpetual Trophy: Salutes a handsome gray horse belonging to the Bartol family. As Norma recalls, "Richie was a horse my 13 year old daughter could play with and ride safely. He took her from maiden through Medal/Maclar classes, to eventing and was a big winner in the pleasure division. Most important, she hunted him for several seasons and took him to Ethel Walker School where they both studied hard. After she went to college he carried several ladies side-saddle. We retired him to the Rockefeller Plantation in Southern Pines."

Rockette Perpetual Trophy: Betty Parker Davies bought "Rockette" when she was a four year old and kept her until her death at age 30. She was Rusty Parker's Pony Club horse and was shown at Day in the Country Horse shows for 24 years.

Ronald "Ronnie" Rosen, DVM Memorial Perpetual Trophy: Judy Richter presented this trophy "in honor of the promising young vet who died in his 30's. A good horseman in a world where technology (x-rays) were turning up countless pre-purchase problems. Ronnie had a very good feel for what problems the buyer could live with and what he dare not try to!"

Kenneth Schaal Perpetual Trophy: Given by Jeri Freels in memory of her father.

Sign of the Times Challenge Trophy: First awarded in 1976, this trophy pays tribute to a lovely chestnut junior hunter shown very successfully by Mary Schneider. Based out of Boulder Brook, Mary was later badly hurt when she was

pinned under a horse trailer ramp as the horse flew back and “that’s why you always put a strap behind them”.⁵

Margaret McCullough Simpson Memorial Trophy: Honors a woman who grew up in Greenwich, rode for many years at Round Hill Stables, and was a member of the Fairfield Country Hunt Club. Her favorite horse was a big bay named MacFundy. When Mrs. Simpson was at Ethel Walker School, she wanted to ride at the National Horse Show, but the school would not let her take time off to do this.

Alvin Untermeyer Perpetual Trophy: Honors a man who owned much of the land off Taconic Road where the Andrews Farms development now stands. For a decade or so, the United States Equestrian Team was headquartered on this lovely property – and it was the site of the Day in the Country Horse Show in the 1960’s and for a few years in the 1980’s. Day in the Country riders loved taking their backyard mounts over the same courses that world champion horses had jumped the day before.

Von Gontard Challenge Trophy: Honors Adie Von Gontard, past GRTA President and Chairman Emeritus, sportsman, rider and active in many community charities. Adie Von Gontard has worked hard to preserve a country way of life in Greenwich.

Theodore F Wahl Perpetual Trophy: Given in memory of “Teddy” Wahl, longtime owner and manager of Round Hill Stables, who taught three generations of riders in Greenwich. Teddy Wahl was a founder of the GRTA and a founding member of the Professional Horseman’s Association.

Maryjane Wallace Perpetual Trophy: Donated by Maryjane’s daughter Bonnie. Maryjane was secretary of the GRTA for 52 years working with eighteen Presidents and numerous volunteers.

Joseph Wilshire Perpetual Trophy: Immortalizes the owner of one of the big estates of the backcountry, who loved horses. He had a huge carriage house filled with a number of four-in-hand coaches, which family members drove to local horse shows and parties in the 1920’s. His daughter, Helen Wilshire Walsh, was a well-known Greenwich figure, honored internationally for her volunteer work. She died in 1994.

⁵ Judy Richter