



Happy
Halloween

IN THIS EDITION

TWHBEASM Awards \$20,000
in Academic Scholarships

Creative Contest Winners

TWHBEASM Youth
Superior Champion

All Youth Day 2007

4-H Achievement Winners

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Walker Scene

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION



TWHBEA Awards \$20,000 in Academic Scholarships

The TWHBEASM recognizes the importance of youth to this industry and the significance of supporting and encouraging tomorrow's leaders.

The TWHBEA Educational Scholarship Program awarded six \$2,500 undergraduate and two \$2,500 graduate scholarships to youth from across the country. These awards were presented in center ring during the 2007 Celebration.

This year's undergraduate recipients are:

Matthew McMurtrey of Winter Garden, Florida
Blair Morton of Oxford, North Carolina
Sarah Rowland of Winchester, Tennessee
Ashley Scott of Champaign, Illinois
Mary Jo Williams of Nashville, Tennessee
Rachel Galeski of Bardstown, Kentucky

2007 TWHBEA Graduate Scholarships recipients are:

Melissa Burnette of Greer South Carolina
Daniel Starnes of Brownsville, Kentucky



CONGRATULATIONS

Stephanie!

Stephanie Smith from Murfreesboro, TN rose above an outstanding group of riders to claim the Auxiliary Equitation Youth Medal Championship.

The victory earned Stephanie the scholarship presented annually by the Celebration and the TWHBEA.

Creative Contests

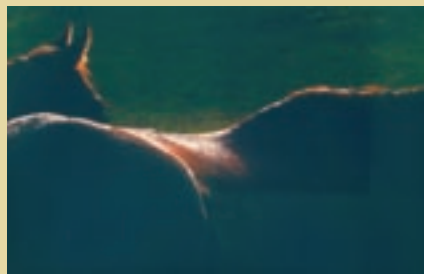
2007 winners

Photography



Photography, Color 11 and under

1st Maggie Dennis, Marion, OH
2nd Allison Dennis, Marion, OH
3rd Audrey Nuckles, High Point, NC



Photography, Color 12 - 14

1st Paige Bennett, Alvaton, KY
2nd Travis Wieberg, Macon, MO
3rd Paige Bennett, Alvaton, KY



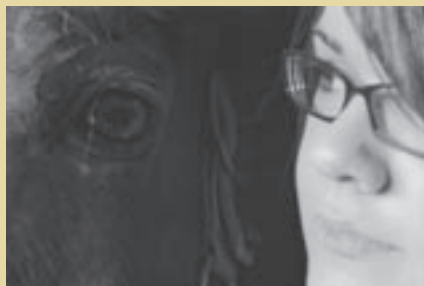
Photography, Color 15 - 17

1st Brittany A. Wells, Springfield, KY
2nd Emily Julian, Murfreesboro, TN
3rd Christina Boucher, Fuquay Varina, NC



Photography, Black & White 11 and under

1st Samantha York, Dayton, TN
2nd Allison York, Jamestown, TN



Photography, Black & White 12 - 14

1st Paige Bennett, Alvaton, KY
2nd Natalie A. Brush, Sorrento, FL
3rd Paige Bennett, Alvaton, KY



Photography, Black & White 15 - 17

1st Corrie Lovin, Lincolton, NC
2nd Deanna Louise Alrutz, Hickory, NC
3rd Deanna Louise Alrutz, Hickory, NC

Essay / Short Story

Essay/Short Story, 11 & under

1st Samantha York
Dayton, TN
2nd Allison York
Jamestown, TN
3rd Caroline Waller
Tullahoma, TN

Essay/Short Story, 12-14

1st Travis Wieberg
Macon, MO

Poetry, 15-17

1st Traci Sirotiak
Newberg, OR
2nd Deanna Louise Alrutz
Hickory, NC
3rd Amanda Petty
Muncie, IN



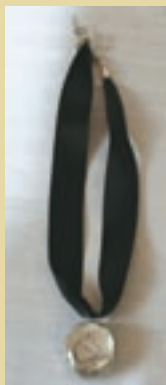
Art, Oil Pastel 11 and under
1st Molly Wells, Spring Hill, TN
2nd Trenton Hirschi, Vernal, UT



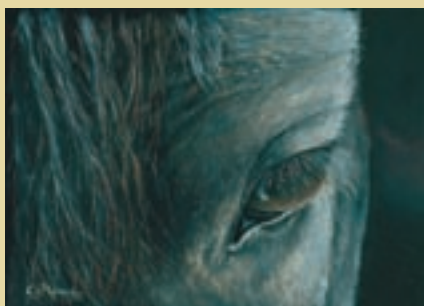
Art, Oil Pastel 12 - 14
1st Katlyn S. Moore, Chocowinity, NC
2nd Tiffany Sumrow, Plano, TX
3rd Paige Bennett, Alvaton, KY



Art, Oil Pastel 15 - 17
1st Christina Boucher, Fuquay Varina, NC
2nd Brittany A. Wells, Springfield, KY
3rd Deanna Louise Alrutz, Hickory, NC



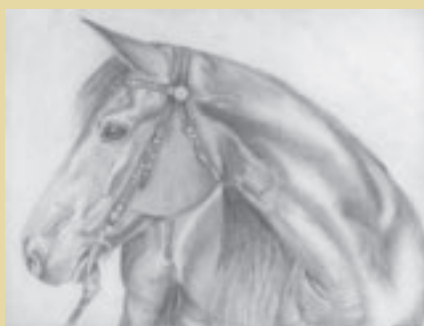
Art, 3-D 12 - 14
1st Paige Bennett, Alvaton, KY
2nd Paige Bennett, Alvaton, KY
3rd Travis Wieberg, Macon, MO



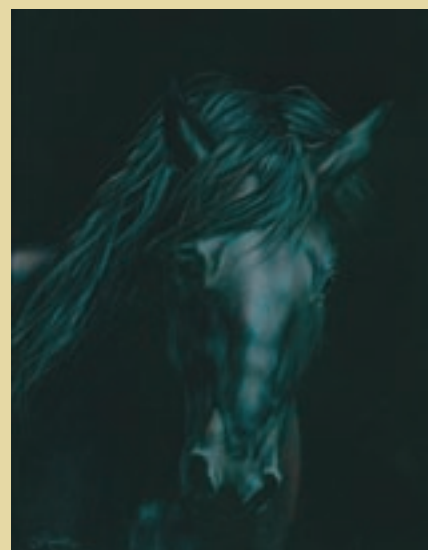
Art, 3-D 15 - 17
1st Catherine Rivard, Arlington, MN
2nd Brittany A. Wells, Springfield, KY



Art, Pencil 11 and under
1st Audrey Nuckles, High Point, NC
2nd Katie Malone, Cookeville, TN
3rd Shelby Wright, Versailles, KY



Art, Pencil 12 - 14
1st Natalie A. Brush, Sorrento, FL
2nd Christian Krueger, Oshkosh, WI
3rd Natalie A. Brush, Sorrento, FL



Art, Pencil 15 - 17
1st Catherine Rivard, Arlington, MN
2nd Megan Smith, Muncie, IN
3rd Megan Smith, Muncie, IN

Poetry

Poetry, 11 & under

- 1st Molly Wells
Spring Hill, TN
- 2nd Samantha York
Dayton, TN
- 3rd Audrey Nuckles
High Point, NC

Poetry, 12-14

- 1st Travis Wieberg
Macon, MO
- 2nd Hallie Kiser
Morganton, NC
- 3rd Kaycee Lynn Erzfeld
Perryville, MO

Poetry, 15-17

- 1st Brittany A. Wells
Springfield, KY
- 2nd Amanda Ishmael
Santa Rosa, CA
- 3rd Deanna Louise Alrutz
Hickory, NC

Essay / Short Story

Essay / Short Story, 11 and under, 1st place

Pride's Perseverance
By: Samantha York

It was an exciting day when my grandfather told us that a new colt would be born. I wanted to claim it for my very own. Libby had always been my favorite mare. I could visualize a shiny foal with muscles that rippled, and a mane that was light and feathery in the breeze. Needless to say the new foal was destined to be a world champion just like it's father Magically Grand. Chilly October finally arrived and the foal could be here anytime. I made my bed in the stall next to Libby, not wanting to miss any excitement. Libby was prancing and restless as I dozed next to her. I was awakened about 3 am. by the nickering of Libby. The time was here. My heart pounded. I raced to get my grandfather. "Hurry we can't just stand here all night," I scream as Papa put on his shirt.

As we hurried to the barn, a weak neigh met our ears. Pride's Perseverance was here. His small frame seemed as frail. He tried to struggle to his feet. Weakly he fell to the soft hay. The worried frown on Papa's face told me he was concerned. Days drug by as we held Pride's Perseverance up for each feeding. There was no improvement after weeks of constant care. Finally the veterinarian came, and Papa slipped quietly from the house hoping I would not notice. "NO, I cried, I will raise Pride's Perseverance. He is mine and he will become a champion."

Papa and Dr. Jack tried to convince me that Pride would always be weak and deformed. Dr. Jack explained Pride's problem as being equal to Down's syndrome in humans "There was just no hope" he continued. Papa's sadness showed on his face as they discussed Pride's fate. Tears flowed freely as I ran to Pride's stall. My heart broke as I thought of giving up on Pride. Papa and Dr. Jack shook their heads as I pleaded with them to let me try to keep Pride. Finally, after much insistence, Papa agreed to give Pride a chance. Day after day I exercised and worked his legs, fed and loved him.

We are now in our tenth season of showing and my faith in Pride's Perseverance has never wavered. There are several boards full of blue ribbons to prove you should never give up. Even Papa and Dr. Jack are amazed at Pride's Perseverance.

Essay / Short Story, 12 - 14, 1st place

By: Travis Wieberg

One broodmare had already foaled on our farm. I always like to stay up with the mares and watch the new anticipated arrivals. This mare didn't show any of the usual signs of having a foal that evening. The next morning I got up to do chores and saw that we had an addition to the farm.

Our last mare to foal was pacing the fence all day. I knew that this would be the night that she would foal. This mare has had several colts for us and this year she was enormously big. I thought she would have twins or one very large colt. But I knew that I needed to be there for her in case she had any trouble. She was bred to a stud from TN and we were anxiously awaiting this arrival.

My mom, a friend of mine and I pitched a tent in the yard. We thought that this would make a great vet science meeting as my mom teaches this in 4-H. The only problem was that it was a school night and mom had already told us that we would be attending school the next morning.

It was 2 a.m. and we hadn't slept any yet, and we knew the time was getting close. At 2:30 she layed down and we saw the feet emerge. Of course, I was hoping for a horse of a different color but I saw black feet. We have 24 horses and most of them are black with a couple of sorrels. I was a little disappointed, but I was eager to see if it was a filly or a stud. Within minutes, just before our eyes, the huge colt is laying on the ground. I grabbed my towel and started wiping its mouth and made sure it was breathing. I then lifted up the tail and saw it was a filly!! The mare was so gentle to lick her off and softly nicked to encourage her to stand up.

At this time I noticed her color. She wasn't like any of the other black horses that we had. Her head, ears and legs are black, but her body has a lot of white hairs and she has a black stripe down her back.

It didn't take me long to get all of my foal imprinting items out and go to work on this filly. At 5:30 a.m. we went back to the house to get some sleep. I got 1 1/2 hours of sleep before heading off to school that day. It was a long day at school, but all I could think about was to get home and play with her.

I have been working with her everyday to get her halter broke so that I can show her at the State Fair. Now I need to pick out the perfect name for her. I am also hoping for a horse of a different color.



Many of the Creative Contest winners were on hand at the Celebration to receive their awards.

Essay / Short Story, 15 - 17, 1st place

A Ride to Die For

By: Traci Sirotiak

Shimmering in the sun, the horse glided across the arena. As each hoof thrust forward, muscles contracted and relaxed beneath him. One-two-three-four, one-two-three-four, the striking sound clung in the air as fresh dew on a field of grass. A chill came over him, creeping slowly down his back. Few horses brought about this kind of fervor, a zeal for life itself. He closed his eyes and felt the wind caressing his face, his hands, brushing through his hair. The cool, fresh air was soothing to his cheeks. The noble beast continued its gait, patiently waiting for another cue, ears searching for further direction. He opened his eyes. He gazed down at this magnificent beast below him. Its coat was a glossy black with an iridescent sheen. Mane and tail rippled gently in the breeze created by the swift movement of both man and horse. The sweet aroma of the equine drifted into his nostrils. His hips swayed with the horse, forwards then backwards. He could feel the movement of the creature beneath him, and he knew that they had a connection. A connection that could only be understood between horse and rider. The whole world seemed fixed upon them. Even the judge's eyes were rigid on the figure soaring past. The connection was seen by all, but the depth remained secret to the man and his horse. To every movement, the simplest of cues, the horse responded willingly, supple to every command. As the man shifted his weight in the saddle, the stride of the beast lengthened. Each hoof stretched higher and farther with every step. The beat rung in his ears: one-two-three-four, one-two-three-four. Sitting deep in his seat, the man exhaled slowly. Calm, relaxed, always ready, the great equine replied, stopping swiftly. Beneath him, he could feel its heaving belly. With the attention of his hands and gentle squeezing of his legs, he cued the horse. Again, the horse picked up the Running Walk with ease. One-two-three-four, one-two-three-four, the gait was consistent, smooth, and determined. As the class came to an end, he directed the horse with his eyes, and the horse nobly followed his gaze, stopping precisely where intended. The man looked pleased and his thin lips parted slightly as he smiled to himself. The horse's eyes showed its calm, gentle nature. Its nostrils expanded and contracted with each breath. The rider felt every muscle tighten and then relax as the horse exhaled a slow, contented sigh. The ride was over. A booming voice came over the loud speaker. All sound was droned out. The man's focus was solely on the horse beneath him. They had done it. The voice became louder and clearer. "First place goes to..." They had succeeded. Man and horse together had won. As the man dismounted to receive the blue ribbon, the connection was lost. The man became separate from the beast. He was not disappointed. He knew that his Tennessee Walker had just given him the ride of his life.

Poetry

Poetry, 11 and under, 1st place

My Best Friend
By: Molly Wells

On a crisp October day
I had just gone out to play.
Through the rustling sound of falling leaves
I heard a distant neigh.
I walked the narrow pathway to the barn so far away.
My eyes began to stare
And I became so happy.
I looked upon that distant path
And saw my beloved Grand pappy.
Graciously stepping by his side
Was a beautiful gray horse
With a walking horse stride.
My heart jumped with joy and oh how sweet

When Grand pappy told me he was mine to keep.
My horse's name is "Pusher's Big Mark"
And like his grandfather, "The Pusher C.G.",
He is very, very smart.
He rides like a champion
And gives me much pleasure.
His strength and agility are too great to measure.
He's given me confidence
And a strong sense of caring.
Like a Tennessee walking horse,
He believes in sharing.
His gentle attitude and his strong sense of pride
Makes me a happy person
Every time I ride.
"Pusher's Big Mark" is my best friend.
I can ride him in a show
And hope we will win.

Poetry, 12 - 14, 1st place

Walking Horse
By: Travis Wieberg

A horse that's sure to please,
Has to be a Walking Horse for the ease.

You won't have to worry about the bouncy trot,
Just sit back in the saddle and give it all you got.

Of all the horses you could ride,
It's a walking horse you choose for its stride.

As he nods his head with each step,
He knows the path and never sidesteps.

He lowers his head when I put on his bridle,
He is always willing to go the extra mile.

I groom his coat until it glistens and shines,
Taking care of him because he is mine.

My Walking Horse never takes a break,
Teaching me to ride as long as it takes.

Poetry, 15 - 17, 1st place

Into the Eyes
By: Brittany Wells

Into the eyes I *look*
Of this beautifully made
Creature

Into the eyes I *see*
The good and the bad times we have
Shared together

Into the eyes I *search*
For these memories
Touch me deeply

Into the eyes I *look*
How my fondest
Has grown throughout the years

Into the eyes I *see*
He is a comforter
He is a listener

Into the eyes I *search*
For that of the wild spirit
That captivated me

Into the eyes I *look*
And find passion of
Beauty and Grace

Into the eyes I *Seek*
And *find* my True Friend
A *Tennessee Walking Horse*

All Youth Day 2007



Several kids posed with the painted pony during All Youth Day.



Veterinarian Dr. Harry, was on hand to discuss horse health.



Senior Horse Judging Champion team from Putnam Co., TN. (L-R) Doyle Meadows, Glenda Jones, Sydney Scott, Lisa Garrison, Skylar Singleton, Jessica Iwanyszyn, and Melissa Henry.



Public Speaking winners posed on the bricks after the contest.



Mop ponies are a favorite of All Youth Day every year.



Dava Reynolds, TWHYA Parliamentarian, assisted in the show prep clinic.

Public Speaking Winners

Junior Promotional

- 1st Taylor Hall
Sewanee, TN
- 2nd Victoria Dugan
Lynchburg, TN
- 3rd Lake Henderson
Huntland, TN

Senior Promotional

- 1st Anna Caruso
Cowan, TN
- 2nd Taylor Shultz
Springfield, TN
- 3rd Sharyl Bendt
Lebanon, TN

Junior Illustrated

- 1st Taylor Hall
Sewanee, TN
- 2nd Victoria Dugan
Lynchburg, TN

Senior Illustrated

- 1st Anna Caruso
Cowan, TN
- 2nd Dava Reynolds
Canby, OR



Junior Horse Judging Champion team from Lincoln Co., TN. (L-R) Dan Owen, Aaron Helms, Haliey Cobb, Josey Smith, Doyle Meadows. Not pictured, Megan Cotnoir.



Terry Moran, farrier, explained different shoes to our youth.



Youth Halter Winners

Again this year the TWHBEA sponsored youth halter classes at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration and as every year the number of participants continues to grow. As an added incentive to these young handlers, well known colt handler, Ella Kline presents each entry in the class with a pin designed especially for these two classes to encourage participation. These pins have become collector items over the past few years with several of the participants. Youth halter classes are qualifying classes for the Celebration Championship classes. Taking home the blue ribbon in the weanling class was Logan Goosetree with his colt Ike Turner for Jacoby Farms. Also in the winner's circle for the Yearling class was Taylor Morgan leading Pat Head Summitt for Roger D. Richards, Hendersonville, TN. Pat Head Summitt (with a different handler) went on to win the Yearling World Grand Champion later in the week.



TWHBEA Youth Superior Champions

Honored in center ring at the 69th annual Celebration were TWHBEASM Youth Superior Champions in the versatility program. These youth work hard year round to earn points towards this prestigious award. After years of hard work towards the highest youth honor in the Versatility program these four ladies were presented the BIG check for \$1,500 by TWHBEA Deputy Executive Director, Kristi Lane. Winners included (from left to right) Natalie Wilbourne from Oxford, NC who rode Genius Country Rose, Sterling Schmitt aboard Delight of Prides Go Boy of Durham, NC, also from the Oxford, NC was Blair Morton completing the requirements with her horse Miss Bomb Threat, and from Niota, TN we have Allison Regan with her horse 14KT Extra.



4-H Achievement Winners Represented 7 States

Oster Professional Products is the corporate sponsor of the annual 4-H Achievement award. Oster is proud to be involved with the youth of the Tennessee Walking Horse industry and provides each winner with a set of Oster Professional horse clippers and Oster's signature grooming products for their horse. 4-Hers apply for this award by showing their participation in the state 4-H horse project using a Tennessee Walking Horse. These young people were thrilled with their items. 2007 4-H Achievement Award Winners are: Brittany N. Freeze, Elkton, Virginia; Kayla Artman, Central Point, Oregon; Courtney Hicks, Wartrace, Tennessee; Elaine Brown, Alvaton, Kentucky; Jeni Gripshover, Burlington, Kentucky; D.J. Koester, Farmer City, Illinois; Mary Victoria Keiser, Morganton, North Carolina; Ashley Royer, Farmington, Missouri.