

2014 UPHA Richard E Lavery Professional Horseman's Award

SMITH & ALEXANDRA LILLY

The following bio appeared in the awards booklet Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the UPHA/ASHA/AHHS Convention in Savannah, Georgia.



UPHA President Tammie Conatser presented the Professional Horseman of the Year Award to Alexandra and Smith Lilly Saturday night in Savannah.

Alexandra and Smith Lilly of Mercer Springs Farm are well known for their commitment to excellent in all things "show horse." This past year at Louisville, the pair proved their versatility as their riders and drivers won world titles in the amateur, ladies, junior exhibitor and open divisions, earning five-gaited, three-gaited, fine harness, pleasure and in hand titles. While honored to work great horses for terrific clients, the Lillys have earned their way to the top in the same way that they approach every day, one horse and one rider at a time.

Alexandra, a top equitation and performance rider in her junior exhibitor days under Mary Cockriel and Rob and Sarah Byers, was running her own business in Colorado when Smith's mother Sandy hired her to run Mercer Springs' growing lesson program in 1993. Alexandra and Sandy soon had over 90 students and created countless new Saddlebred owners and enthusiasts. After stints apprenticing under Nelson Green, Mitch Clark, Larry Barbee and Fred Sarver, Smith joined the team in 1995, and in more ways than one, things just seemed to "click." Alexandra and Smith were married in 2000 and since then have brought home well over 100 world titles. A partial list of the crowd pleasing show horses presented by the Lillys includes WGC He's The Man, WGC Mother Mary, WCC Platinum's New Look,

WCC CH Callaway's Born For This WCC Have You ever, WCC Billy Jewel, WCC Just Special, WCC French Silk Stockings, WCC CH Walterway's Remember Me, WCC Caraway's New York Minute, WCC CH Desert Supreme Kid and WC CH Swing An Singin.

The Lillys also believe in giving back to the sport. Along with being former co-chairs of the ASB Museum Annual Campaign, Smith has served as UPHA Chapter 18 Chairman and currently serves on the USEF Saddlebred Rules Committee and chairs the ASHA Kentucky and National Futurities Committee. In 2012, after much editing by Alexandra, Smith released the book, Saddle Seat Horsemanship. The most comprehensive and in-depth resource available to Show Horse enthusiasts, it quickly gained widespread approval and critical acclaim from seasoned pros, top amateurs and new members of our show horse community. Believing that the sharing of knowledge is the best way to promote and grow our sport they give hands-on clinics in different parts of the country during the off-season and have released a series of educational DVDs on various topics pertaining to riding and training show horses.