



**National
Steeplechase
Foundation**

First Call

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The Newsletter for the Community of Supporters

Advancing American Jump Racing through Opportunity

Your 2015 NSA Award Winners

With autumn racing coming to a close, the National Steeplechase Association celebrated with the annual awards dinner at the National Steeplechase Museum

Dawalan, owned by Irv Naylor and trained by Cyril Murphy, won the last stakes race of 2015, the \$100,000 Marion duPont Scott Colonial Cup Grade 1 Hurdles Stakes, a 2-3/4-mile race over National Fences, under jockey Ross Geraghty, at Springdale Race Course in Camden, SC.

“My biggest regret is that Irv isn’t here to see it. This is his great love,” Diane Naylor said after accepting the trophy on his behalf. “This is a team effort, everyone working together. I’m excited for Cyril and the barn. It’s a dream come true. Everyone ends the season on a good note.”

“Cyril Murphy is a fabulous trainer and I have great riders,” said Irv Naylor when told the news.

The win garnered Dawalan the National Steeplechase Association’s (NSA) Lonesome Glory Champions Award as the year’s leading earner,

having won more than \$250,000.

Grade 1 victories in the Colonial Cup and Grand National have put Dawalan in a good position to be voted 2015’s champion steeplechase horse. Sponsored by the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA), Daily Racing Form and National Turf Writers and Broadcasters, the Eclipse Award winner will be announced in January 2016.



Dawalan, 2015 earnings champion



Diane and Irv Naylor, champion owner

Irv Naylor more than secured his title as the 2015 NSA champion owner with year-end earnings of \$778,660.

His horses’ performances throughout the year were nothing short of masterful, including first and second-place finishes in the Marion duPont Scott Colonial Cup, first and second-place finishes in the Charleston Cup, victory in the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup, and three wins at Far Hills, including the richest meet in American jump racing, the \$300,000 Grade 1 Grand National. This is the fifth leading-owner title in six years for Naylor who calls Pennsylvania home.

Michael Moran’s Ivy Mills received

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Hope Cooper, National Steeplechase Museum Honoree

“She is the rare person who just keeps giving,” said of one of Springdale Race Course’s most dedicated during a reception to launch this year’s Marion duPont Scott Colonial Cup in Camden, SC. Hired in 1988, she was an integral part of establishing College Park, making Springdale a year-round training center and building the sponsor mounds. Named Curator of the National Steeplechase Museum when it opened in 1998, she built the collections and raised plenty of funds before passing her Executive Director title over in 2014 prior to retiring in 2015 when she celebrated her 58th year at the Carolina Cup. Hope Cooper’s perspective will add greatly in her new role as a recently elected member of the Board of Directors.

Giving Thanks



Recently the National Steeplechase Foundation (NSF) sent out its annual appeal letter. Your gifts matter. Thank you for answering our call and for supporting the mission.

Marion duPont Scott's contributions remind us that foresight is the key to preserving this sport well past our own era.

Because of your generosity, the NSF is able to focus on areas to improve safety, develop amateurs and provide education and promotion.

Thanks to your contributions, the NSF will continue its support of the NSA Promotion & Growth Committee, now chaired by Dr. Al Griffin.

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the Life's Illusion Filly and Mare champion trophy that the NSA awards each year to steeplechasing's leading female. Jack Fisher trained, she won the \$30,000 Springdale for fillies and mares on "Ladies Day at the Races" at the Colonial Cup.

Jack Fisher is the 2015 champion trainer for the ninth time with the most wins (28) and most earnings (\$1,047,600). Based in Maryland, he trained for Gil Johnston, Sheila J. Williams, Mrs. S.K. Johnston Jr.,

Plans are underway for the next *Owners Symposium and Auction* that will take place at Great Meadow in The Plains, VA, on Sunday, April 10, 2016. For information, visit www.GoJumpRacing.com.

Steeplechasing is fun for family and friends but it is also a catalyst for generosity. The 29 sanctioned race meets contribute millions of dollars annually to charities. As an example, the Far Hills Race Meeting Association, which ran the \$300,000 Grand National in 2015, has raised more than \$18 million for Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset. In recognition, the hospital named its Steeplechase Cancer Center in its honor.

"The entire community benefits when steeplechase comes to town," said Guy Torsilieri, NSA President.

Race meets, most operating without the lure of wagering, attract more than half a million spectators each year to the thousands of acres of land that have been protected from development and managed for the enjoyment of horse sport. The economic impact is substantial. And the love that owners, and other par-

ticipants, have for their horses has stimulated the creation of public facilities and equine research.

In celebration, be sure to get your 2015 edition of *American Steeplechasing*. The annual hardcover book of pictures, statistics and stories is produced with NSF support.

On a final note, few sports have the kind of longevity that makes the announcement of the *Brown Advisory Iroquois Cheltenham Challenge* so meaningful. Nearly 200 years after the USA recorded its first jump race and the first Cheltenham Gold Cup was held in England, a \$500,000 bonus will be awarded for any horse that wins both the Ladbrokes Group 1 World Hurdle at Cheltenham Racecourse in England and the

Grade 1 Calvin Houghland Iroquois Hurdle Stakes in Tennessee within a 12-month period.

As the NSF reflects on its 20-year history, there is gratitude for your foresight that guides American jump racing today

pard, Jimmy Day, Fenneke Bentley and Danielle Hodsdon.

The title of most earnings went to jockey Jack Doyle, in the US from Ireland for part of 2015. He rode for trainers Richard Valentine, Jack Fisher, Cyril Murphy, Elizabeth Voss, Janet Elliot, Todd Wyatt, Micheal Leaf, Ricky Hendriks, Jazz Napravnik and Louis Neilson III.

Kate Dalton accepted the novice championship for Gary Barber's African Oil.

The Ongoing Safety Study You Can't Do Without

Through the National Steeplechase Foundation you are helping create the beginnings of a great legacy of safety in American jump racing

Thanks to your generous financial support to the NSF, it has been able to assist Virginia Tech's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center since 2004 with its ongoing steeplechase safety study. Without you, the NSF would not be able to provide a yearly grant to cover the costs of the study, one that has led to improved safety conditions in steeplechasing.

Your donations are at work making it possible to collect and analyze data from each of the race meets year after year. The result has been a steady implementation of procedures that have led to a decrease in orthopedic (bone) injuries.

"The NSF is so critical and the lynch-pin for what we are trying to do," said Reynolds Cowles DVM, the National Steeplechase Association (NSA) Safety Task Force Chair.

Since 1997 data from all sanctioned race meets have been collected and analyzed as a result of a group of forward-thinking people who designed a long-term research study that would provide insight and the tools required to effectively monitor horses, the jockeys who ride them and the turf they train and race on. According to Dr.

Cowles, safety protocols improve conditions and there is no question that the steeplechase safety study continues to have a direct correlation to those improvements.

This is unprecedented but more work needs to be done and that is why your continued support is necessary. Longevity of the research and the ability to compare data over a long period of time make for a reliable study.

Throughout the racing calendar, Elaine Meilahn of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center compiles three data lists (ground conditions, temperature and occurrences) that she receives from the

race meet veterinarians each week. Cross-referenced data provides a clear picture of each race day. She then files the data with the Jockey Club. At the end of the year Marion

duPont Scott Equine Medical Center's Dr. Nathaniel White does an overall statistical analysis of all of the data and writes a final report.

A subsequent data sheet captures all major complications a horse may have had from week to week. If a horse has any kind of incident such as a fall or surgery, for example, it automatically goes on the veterinar-



Field checking a fence at Gold Cup

Tod Marks

ian's list which is categorized both by horse and by trainer. That way, the vet at the next race meet can examine the horses entered with fair but informed scrutiny. Only the race meet's veterinarian sees this information. It is not shared with the NSA, other vets, trainers or owners.

Finally, the names and identifying information are removed from all data before it is sent to the NSA Safety Committee to look at how it maps out. The Safety Committee has been able to see patterns at particular race meets by combining the data with information ascertained from each course inspection. The result has been the creation of strategies and sometimes further research to find ways to prevent safety incidences in the future.

Falls and fatalities have decreased in the last three years but a longer window of viewing is required to determine if the data is statistically significant.

With your financial support, the NSF will be able to ensure a much appreciated annual grant to the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center for its continued development of the safety study. A legacy of safety is in everyone's interest.



Your Donations Make Youth Steeplechase Camps Possible

Capturing a win in her last race as a junior, NSF Youth Camp participant looks forward to amateur racing

It was a monumental day for Tatiana Sushko, the 17-year-old from Maryland who raced Christian's Star, owned by Debbie Oxnard, to victory in the Junior Horse (TB) Field Master's Chase division at the recent Pennsylvania Junior Hunt Cup. Her brother Theodore won the Small Pony division.

"I am really happy because this is the first race I've ever won," said Tatiana who had only raced the ex-flat horse once since getting her in 2012.

Tatiana has been on a pony since she began racing two years ago. Thanks to NSF donor-supported opportunities for youth, the long-time hunter-jumper rider had the chance to participate in the National Steeplechase Foundation Domestic Youth Camp and it changed her life.

"The NSF camp was one of the best weeks ever," said Tatiana who plans to do amateur jump and flat races next spring and considers racing her own horses in the future. "I definitely want to keep doing it because I love it."

As the sport develops strategies for greater youth involvement, your gifts and guidance are required to help the next wave of amateurs develop the skills and contacts to consider a career in American jump racing as a trainer or jockey, the two areas where the sport needs the greatest influx.

Tatiana Sushko and Christian's Star, owned by Debbie Oxnard, winning the 2015 Pennsylvania Junior Hunt Cup (TB division)

NSF Offers Grants to Outside Non-Profits

If your non-profit organization has a project that addresses a need in American steeplechasing, you are invited to apply for financial assistance through the NSF grant-making program.

The project must start after March 15, 2016, with all expenses incurred before December 31, 2016.

The last day to apply is January 15, 2016.

Complete details and an application form can be found on the NSF website or contact the NSF office.

Rigorous evaluation ensures that funds acquired through NSF fundraising are distributed to grant recipients appropriately.



Be good to horses and they'll be good to you.

Beth Supik hugs Ebanour after his win in the 2015 New Jersey Hunt Cup

Thank you for helping preserve the enjoyment and all of the good that American jump racing gives back to its participants and to all of the communities and causes that benefit. The NSF works to ensure the sport's longevity by raising and allocating funding for initiatives that focus on safety, education, amateurism and promotion.

Give now Give later Fundraise Volunteer
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