

An Intense Competition Showcases The 2014 Morgan Weanling Gala

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. –The sixth edition of the Morgan Weanling Gala featured thirteen beautiful Morgan foals competing for over \$33,000 in prize money along with several other prizes donated by the generous sponsors. Originally scheduled for Thursday night at the Jubilee Regional Morgan Horse Show, the event took place a night later due to a dangerous storm on Thursday night.

Thursday evening during the break between the performance classes and the Gala, rain began pouring down in horizontal sheets with thunder and lightning. This sent everyone running back to the barns and many spectators were trapped in the coliseum. There were two delays in an effort to let the rain pass but it did not let up. Lightning struck the Coliseum and another building on the fairgrounds. Needless to say, many were ducking for cover! By this time, the street in front of the Coliseum was calf deep in water and the tanbark was floating away into other avenues. At the end of the second delay, a decision was made to postpone the Gala to Friday evening right after the last performance class for the safety of the handlers and foals. The Gala After Party went on as scheduled across the street in the make-up arena and those running from the arena were met by an awesome three piece jazz band and fabulous food.

The Gala went as planned on Friday evening, and everyone was thrilled to have an even bigger audience in the stands. It did begin to rain again just as the first baby headed to the ring but the handlers were amazingly prepared and determined to get to the ring and show. By the time the fourth foal went in to be judged the rain stopped and the rest was smooth sailing from there. After the class, everyone enjoyed the famous Jubilee Street Party that also had to be moved indoors due to the weather.

Mark Staehnke, Morgan Weanling Gala Chairman commented, "This event remains the one and only showcase for the youngest stars of the Morgan Breed. It is more than just a class – it's an event! This year we saw 13 outstanding babies compete under the lights to close out the evening session of the Jubilee Regional Championship Horse Show and there wasn't one that I wouldn't be proud to have in our barn. This event depends entirely on the Stallion Nominators who have the foresight to know that they need to promote the breed to succeed. I also want to thank our Sponsors and Donors who make the evening possible by underwriting all costs for the event and reception afterwards. This allows the MWG to payout 100% of the Nomination Fees back to our 10 winners. We look forward to MWG 2015 and we look forward to continued and increased support from those who value the future of our breed."

The trainers and handlers had their foals in top form for judges Jay Wood, Sarah Gove and Dwayne Knowles. The 11 Nominated Stallions for 2014 were Astronomicallee, Balenciaga, Cingate Revelation,



Morgan Weanling Gala committee members Beth Fancsali and Mark Staehnke (far right) were joined by AMHI President Bob Morgan for the Morgan Weanling Gala championship presentation to Intense.

Hollybrook Stage Rage, Mastroianni, Minion Millennium, Roberto Cavalli, The Ignitor, SLB Da Vinci, Spice O'Life Present Tense and Whispering War Chant with seven of the stallion represented by get in this year's class.

Following the first round scoring, the top ten weanlings were brought back as a group. After further inspection the judges asked four weanlings to line up side-by-side for a final evaluation. Following the tabulations the three judges were in complete agreement on the top four placings in the competition.

It was indeed an intense competition as the sensational filly Intense, sired by Spice O'Life Present Tense and out of S&R's Mephistos Waltz, a full sister to Minion Millennium, was crowned the unanimous champion. Roxanne Sardelli Greenway of Clayville, RI, the owner of last year's Gala Reserve Champion, is the proud owner of this year's champion. She purchased her shortly before the Gala from breeders John and Belle Hufferd who also trained and presented. This was the first year that Spice O'Life Present Tense was nominated to the Gala and he was represented by three of his get in the top ten.

Reserve in the class went to an SLB Da Vinci daughter bred and owned by Sheryl Bartolucci and SLB Farms of Penn Valley, CA. SLB Gordon Girl is out of the top producer Kim's Bellegante and was presented by Mark Bodnar.

The top four also featured Fieldcrest Major Of War in third place for owner/breeders Tim Carol Selinsky and handler John Hufferd. This colt is sired by the Selinsky's stallion Whispering War Chant and out of the Lamborghini In Black daughter Sarde's Scintillation. Merriehill Moonshine collected the fourth place streamers with Whitney and Mark Bodnar presenting for Merriehill Farm. The brilliant chestnut colt is sired by Hollybrook Stage Rage and out of world champion Cingate Starry Night.

Over \$33,000 in cash as well as additional prizes were awarded with \$6,620 going to the winning owner, \$846 to the trainer and \$1,000 to the stallion owner. Reserve took home over \$5,000 plus addi-



Mark and Whitney Bodnar presented SLB Gordon Girl to the reserve championship honors for owner/breeder Sheryl Bartolucci and SLB Farms.

WINNERS MORGAN WEANLING GALA 2014

<i>Pl. No. Name</i>	<i>Sire x Dam</i>	<i>Trainer</i>	<i>Owner</i>
1. 276 Intense	(Spice O'Life Present Tense x S&R's Mephistos Waltz)	John Hufferd	Roxanne Sardelli
2. 259 SLB Gordon Girl	(SLB Da Vinci x Kim's Bellegante)	Mark Bodnar	Sheryl Bartolucci
3. 279 Fieldcrest Major Of War	(Whispering War Chant x Sarde's Scintillation)	John Hufferd	Tim/Carol Selinsky
4. 246 Merriehill Moonshine	(Hollybrook Stage Rage x Cingate Starry Night)	Mark Bodnar	Merriehill Farm
5. 275 Must Be Revealed	(Cingate Revelation x Must Be Fate)	John Hufferd	Dennis Bontrager
6. 280 JW Love At Last	(Hollybrook Stage Rage x JW Peaches And Cream)	Kurt Hufferd	Judy Whitney Harris
7. 277 MVMR Miss America	(Spice O'Life Present Tense x Miss Somonauk)	John Hufferd	Walter/Margaret Gladstone
8. 281 Indian Creek Master Chief	(Hollybrook Stage Rage x Long Acres Broadway)	Kurt Hufferd	Indian Creek Farm
9. 283 VDM Intense	(Spice O'Life Present Tense x Vanessa Queen)	David Earehart	Verlin Miller
10. 282 Titleist	(Mastroianni x CBMF Street Kisses)	Kurt Hufferd	Suzu Trueblood

Anne Benson, owner Roxanne Sardelli Greenway and trainer/breeders Belle and John Hufferd celebrated their Morgan Weanling Gala Championship victory with Intense.



MORGAN WEANLING GALA FINAL ROUND JUDGES CARDS

Pl.	No.	Knowles	Wood	Gove	Final
1.	276	1	1	1	1-1-1
2.	259	2	2	2	2-2-2
3.	279	3	3	3	3-3-3
4.	246	4	4	4	4-4-4
5.	275	7	5	6	7-5-6
6.	280	6	8	5	6-8-5
7.	277	5	7	7	5-7-7
8.	281	8	6	8	8-6-8
9.	283	9	9	9	9-9-9
10.	282	10	10	10	10-10-10

tional money to the trainer and stallion owner also awarded. The payouts continued from there with sixth through 10th place earning over \$1,400 each plus money award to all of the top ten stallion owners.

Maretta Kennedy has generously donated the Champion and Reserve Bronze Trophies to the Gala since 2009, and this year's trophies were gorgeous and very coveted by their winners. Radon Inc. awarded the Top Ten entries, with foal sized show sheets garnering the Gala logo and special recognition for the Champion and Reserve. They were also the generous donors of the Special Ribbons and garlands of roses. AMHI President Bob Morgan was also on site to present awards and generously donated Champagne to the champion and reserve champion owners.

In addition to the cash prizes, Top Ten winners received gift bags with gift certi-

icates to Churchwells Jewelers, Saddle Horse Report, and Freedman Harness also added to the prizes with their generous gifts.

The Morgan Weanling Gala and AMHI offered special thanks to the Jubilee Regional for hosting the 2014 Morgan Weanling Gala. The event and party would not have been possible without their support and generosity as well as that of all of the Morgan Weanling Gala sponsors.

Stallion nominations are now being received for the 7th Annual event that will again take place at the 50th Annual Jubilee Regional Morgan Horse Show in 2015. Stallion or mare owners may nominate their favorite stallions so that 2015 foals are eligible to compete for the cash, prizes, and titles of the Morgan Weanling Gala. For more information visit MorganWeanlingGala.com.



Dwayne Knowles, Sarah Gove and Jay Wood mark the cards in the sixth annual Morgan Weanling Gala.



The Morgan Weanling Gala provides a wonderful group of prizes in addition to prize money for each of the top ten entries thanks to generous donors and sponsors.