

# New England hosts Breeder Sweepstakes; program in 14th year

In its 14-year history, the Morgan Breeder Sweepstakes has spotlighted hundreds of top Morgan weanlings and awarded almost a million dollars in payback to owners, handlers and stallion owners. Many of its winners have gone on to careers as top show horses and producers.

*Prestigious event rewards industry's top weanlings*



*2003 Morgan Breeder Sweepstakes Champion Raintree Celine & John Hufferd*

Successful? Yes – and probably more successful than most in the industry would have predicted.

Designed as a private enterprise by Morgan owners Kelli Ross, Maxine Snow and Carol Hudson, the first Sweepstakes classes were held in 1991 at two regionals: New England, Northampton, MA and Jubilee, Springfield, IL. After dividing the classes between East Coast and Midwest venues for four years, the board consolidated the Sweepstakes at one show, moving over the years from Jubilee to Mid-Atlantic Regional in Pennsylvania and back to Jubilee.

In 2001 the Sweepstakes board agreed to try yet another approach to accommodate participants from across the country: alternate between East Coast and Midwest locations. To this end, the 2004 Sweepstakes will be held in conjunction with the New England

Regional and in 2005 it will return to Jubilee.

The first year, 14 stallions were nominated for each of the East and West Coast divisions at \$5,000 per stallion. Now 40 stallions are enrolled in the program at a \$3,000 fee. Payback,

administrative costs and the annual Sweepstakes gala are funded by the stallion owners themselves. Owner of the champion weanling wins \$25,000 with payout to ten places.

In 2003, the Breeder Sweepstakes Championship went to Raintree Celine by Stonecroft Byzantine, owned by Barb Rudicel of Muncie, IN and led by many-time Sweepstakes winner John Hufferd, Roanoke, IN. Reserve Champion was Bears It All by Ultras Special Agent, owned by Mike and Amy Bearman, Albion, MI and shown by Mike Slomkowski, Northville, MI.

For more information regarding the Morgan Breeder Sweepstakes, contact Kelli Ross at (760) 325-5283.



*2003 Morgan Breeder Sweepstakes Reserve Champion Bears It All & Mike Slomkowski*

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71  
73  
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93  
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117  
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