

**Ben and Tamie Grandstaff**  
**IBHA Hall of Fame Inductees**  
**March 15, 2025**

**Ben and Tamie Grandstaff are encouraging, compassionate, respectful and down right great people. They believe in hard work and determination to make a successful foundation. They are innovative, creative, helpful, giving, and always making sure others are taken care of. But there are two words that ring out just like the words from a Tim McGraw song, Humble and Kind.**

**These are just some of the things that we were told when we asked others for their thoughts about Ben & Tamie**

**Ben's introduction to the horse world was thru Tamie as she was involved in horses since she was a young girl. Ben learned early on that the way to Tamie's heart was through horses and that if he wanted to date her, he had to learn to like them! Their first date was October 2, 1970 and Ben took her for supper and to the Royal Lipizzaner show (he obviously learned that lesson well). The following spring, Ben started to take Tamie to her horse shows, to the delight of Tamie's dad as he joked that he waited a long time for someone else to take her to the shows. They were married on February 16, 1975 and just recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.**

**Ben and Tamie were blessed with four wonderful children - Jeremy, Crystal, Dustin and Corey.**

**One of the traditions that Tamie did on the farm was when each of the children were born and came home from the hospital, they were given a ride on her horse Duke. She was forming that bond between mother, child, and horse. Duke was Tamie's youth horse. Tamie states she would literally have a front pack on with one child in front and backpack on with another child and ride around the farm like it was nothing. Each kid learned how to ride on Duke, and Jeremy and Crystal even did lead line classes with him as well.**

**Ben and Tamie have done more than what meets the eye in everyday life. Living in Marengo, Ohio Ben and Tamie were involved in many activities with their children. They were involved in the booster club where Crystal went to school and would often work the concession stands for all of her home games. They would travel to**

her away games as well. They also traveled all over the Midwest when the boys were competing in wrestling matches and swim meets.

For many years, Ben & Tamie operated S & G Stables in Marengo, Ohio. They acquired their first stallion in 1990, who was the sire of Champ I Am, Crystal's show horse. By 1996 they added 10 more stallions to their farm for their breeding business. They had a mix of Quarter Horse and Thoroughbred Stallions, including one that finished second in the 1984 Kentucky Derby. At the height of their breeding business, they were breeding up to 420 mares a year. They enjoyed working with, promoting and showing the foals that they raised. Even though they have technically retired from the breeding business, they still co-own and stand Dynamic Breeze with Ava Gardner.

They were 4-H leaders for 25 years. On many occasions their kids can remember having approximate 20 to 40 4-H members at the farm learning from their parents as they taught the kids everything from working with horses on the ground to riding. When there were no 4-H kids there or any sporting events to go to, Ben and Tamie were on the road to horse shows with the kids.

Their kids described Ben as someone who searched for perfection and worked hard to achieve it and helped to install that in others. Ben often found creative solutions for situations presented to him, like when Jeremy and Corey wanted to barrel race. Mind you, the boys are blind, so Ben came up with the idea of putting beepers in coffee cans and placed them on top of each barrel so the boys would know which way to pilot their horses. Tamie was described as having a competitive yet nurturing nature. And yet...when it was time for them to "toe the line" all Tamie would have to say was one word....AHM. The siblings reflected on their parents' motivations rooted in their children's success. Ben and Tamie's philosophy was to raise their kids so when they were of age they could live on their own. They told their children that they could be anything in life that they wanted to be and they never held them back from trying new things. Despite their struggles growing up they are all successful and owe it all to their parents.

The Family first attended buckskin shows in Delaware, Ohio when Crystal had a Grulla mare. Those shows were very successful for Crystal and they were later urged by Karen Elmore to go to the Indiana show as Crystal was leading the nation in some classes. Because Corey was just a baby, only Ben and Crystal made the trip to Indiana. That show was a turning point for them. At the Indiana show, Ben and Crystal met Helen Ketterman and her daughter Amanda (now Amanda Durnell)

and they took Ben and Crystal under their wing and showed them the ropes and the rest, as they say, is history. The Grandstaff family found that the IBHA organization and shows were a great family organization filled with amazing people and it just felt like an extension of their family.

It wasn't long after they joined Ohio Buckskin in 1990 that they were approached to be on the board and they jumped in with both feet to help when and where they could. They made their presence felt and they were very involved with running the Ohio Buckskin club from that point until they moved to Florida in 2020.

Ben and Tamie were an integral part of the Ohio State Buckskin Association for many years and are a big part of the history of OSBA. Ben served as president from 2000-2003, 2012-2015 and again from 2019-2020. When he wasn't president, you would find Ben serving on many committees for the association from Executive Committee to Finance Committee to Horse Show Committee. He worked many hours to help the association find cost-effective venues for its shows as well as worked with those venues to keep costs down through his negotiating skills. At the shows, when he wasn't in the arena himself, he was often found helping address horse show exhibitor concerns, assisting with the ring crew or verifying stall counts at the show venue, and was never one to stay idle.

As the President of OSBA, Ben helped to build the club up. He has good financial sense and worked to make sure that the club was financially secure. At one point, after taking over as the club President, he actually had to personally guarantee that he would cover all the expenses of the facility out of their own pocket when the club's checkbook dwindled down to about \$2,000. Ben is a problem solver – always looking for a solution for any problem or situation - and is business savy and because of this, through his leadership, OSBA became a thriving club. The 4 day Red, White and Blue circuit was a brain child of Ben & Tamie and it proved to be a very successful venture for the club.

Tamie served as OSBA's membership secretary for many years, and worked in the show office at shows for a number of years. Her quiet input would always bring in a different perspective to association discussions. Ben said that Tamie is his rock and has proven to be a great support to him and a sounding board. He can bring ideas or explain situations to her and talk about it...the talking helps with perspective. She also served as OSBA's charter delegate. Together, Ben and Tamie worked in all aspects of the buckskin industry in Ohio from being stallion managers to breeders to horse show exhibitors themselves. Even after moving to

Florida, Ben and Tamie continued to offer their input and advice to OSBA and returned to Ohio for various equine events. Tami is still the OSBA charter delegate and was the membership secretary until just a few years ago.

Ben & Tamie's Leadership style is more of a Service Leadership. They have no problem rolling up their sleeves, digging in and doing the work and "getting their hands dirty". They are organized, creative, forward-thinking leaders who inspire and encourage everyone else to be the best that they can be. There was no such thing as doing anything "half way" in their eyes. When it came to the OSBA shows, they were the first to arrive and the last to leave the grounds and typically the first ones up in the morning and the last ones that went to bed. They saw the shows thru and they never gave up making them the best that they could be.

Brianne Matthews told me that "she can say with confidence that there would not be an OSBA today if it were not for the efforts of both Ben and Tamie. She witnessed first-hand the amount of time and energy that they invested in the club to ensure it could be as successful as possible."

Tamie worked for the Ohio Quarter Horse Association each August for 25 years helping staff process entries for the All American Quarter Horse Congress. This involved everything from reviewing entries for errors and any missing registration or membership information to verifying class eligibility to computer input and calling exhibitors for additional information. Tamie also worked at the show in the entry office for many years assisting exhibitors in getting their back numbers and verifying any final information for the show. At the same time, Ben and Tamie had a contract to accept the manure generated at the Quarter Horse Congress for their composting business. Ben estimates that in the 20 years that he was contracted to haul away the manure, that he took out 5700 loads which made for some very happy farmers and compost sites in the area!

They have been active members of IBHA for decades. Not only did they work hard for OSBA, they also have been active on the National level. They started attending the IBHA convention way back when it was held in Clarksville, Indiana. It wasn't long before they were named to several committees including the Show and Contest and the Welfare Committees. Their ties to AQHA have been an asset for adapting to changes in the industry and staying current with emerging trends. Additionally, they were active in the horse industry with their breeding business and competed as a family. In doing so, they brought the competition of disabled contestants to our organization and made awareness as part of our culture. In 2019 Ben was named to the IBHA Executive Committee.

**Ben & Tamie have been a continued fixture at the IBHA world show, starting from back to the days when the world show was in Columbia, Missouri. In Cloverdale, you can always see Ben and Tamie pulling up with their motor home ready to unload for the Team Beezer Isle. And of course, like the IBHA family we all are, there is a team ready to help - hugs included. You can always find Ben and Tamie in the aisleway chilling with people, laughing having a good time. But of course, if there is a horse in need they are right there “what can I do to help” “what do you need me to do”. You can always see them with the Team Beezer shirts sitting along the rail cheering on their Beezer teammates as well as their friends, regardless if they are a part of Team Beezer or not.**

**I had the opportunity to ask some fellow IBHA members their thoughts on Ben & Tamie and due to time limitations, we can't read everything that we were told, we have included some snippets of what we were told. (Rest Assured, I did print everything in it's entirety to give to them).**

**From Bernie Pletcher**

**Ben and Tamie are encouraging, compassionate, respectful and good people. We are very lucky to have met them and to have them in our lives for over 20 years. They aren't just friends they are family to us. Congratulations Ben and Tamie. This is a great honor.**

**From Brianne Mathews**

**Between standing IBHA stallions, breeding IBHA horses, and supporting every IBHA show they could, combined with their passion for OSBA, there is no one more deserving of this Hall of Fame induction award. I am very honored to have been in the position to learn so much from them, both about buckskin horses and about life in general. Thank you, Ben and Tam, for all of the memories and I hope you are enjoying your Friday night alone time!**

**Sam Mitchell**

**I have had the privilege of being on a number of committees with Ben and Tammie and have found if asked they will help with everything and help anyone.**

**Ed & Sandy Anderson**

**We have had the pleasure of working with Ben & Tamie on IBHA committees and Ben is on the executive committee with Ed. They have always conducted themselves in such a professional manner and doing what they feel is the best for**

**IBHA and it's members. They have so much knowledge in the horse industry. They are a true asset to IBHA.**

**Julia Adams**

**The qualities this couple exude are an exemplary model for what makes this association special. They are so deserving of this award and I'm so proud to call them my friends, mentors, and family.**

**Butch Watson**

**The first time that I met Ben and Tammy was at my first National Convention in Milwaukee after I received my Judge's card with IBHA. They both welcomed me to the IBHA Family as if I had been around for years. I would like to congratulate Ben and Tamie on the honor of being inducted into the IBHA Hall of Fame. There is no one more desiring of this honor.**

**Mike Stadler**

**Over my tenure with IBHA, I have had the extreme pleasure of both showing with and working with Ben and Tamie Grandstaff. I have always admired their expertise and knowledge of the Buckskin Breed and their dedication to IBHA.**

**While I was serving my term as IBHA President, in 2017 Ed Anderson was brought onto the board to represent the perspective of Trainers. In 2019, Ben Grandstaff was brought onto the board, to provide the unique perspective of Buckskin Breeders. It was important for the organization to have the board staffed with people who provided expertise from all facets of the industry, not just management and exhibitors. Ben always provided honest and direct feedback that best served the organization and was never self-serving.**

**My success as President during my term was due in large part to the knowledge, expertise and friendship I received from Ben and Tamie and I will be forever grateful for all they contributed to the organization. I think they are extremely deserving of being inducted into the IBHA Hall of Fame, congratulations to both Ben and Tamie.**

**And for me personally, I really have a tremendous respect for their insight, input and perspective. I remember years ago, I believe it was the first year IBHA had the World Show in Cloverdale, Ann Grotzke and I approached Ben out in the parking lot and asked how to go about getting a rule proposal passed. Back at that time,**

not too many rule proposals were being approved. Even though he was on a mission to do something, Ben graciously took the time to explain the process to us and what needed to be done to successfully bring a rule proposal before IBHA. He believes in empowering others by teaching them so they have the tools and knowledge to successfully accomplish what needs to be done.

When we asked Ben & Tamie's kids what they felt their parents greatest accomplishments were, their answers were:

Dustin said that getting to a point where they felt that could retire and relocate to Florida was a huge step for them and stepping out of their comfort zone, but they ended up being rejuvenated.

Corey said that one of their greatest accomplishments was bringing OSBA back to life and then making sure that there was someone to take the helm when they retired and moved to Florida. And personal front, he felt that finding a business that has been successful for them.

For Crystal – in her eyes a proud moment was that they started to show again. For so long, Ben & Tamie supported their kids as they showed horses and all their school activities that they put their own show careers on the back burner. Once the kids had grown and were no longer showing, they were able to show again. But she was most proud of their success in life. They were not handed a silver spoon, but they rolled up their sleeves and worked hard to achieve what they wanted in their lives and are grateful for what they have and what they accomplished.

Jeremy commented the thing that makes me most proud is the way that they have explored and grown in their own ways and the way that they have inspired others. They want others to be the best that they can be. They do what they can to empower them.

When I mentioned to Tamie that we had a wonderful conversation with their kids, she was extremely happy to hear that and then told me that their kids are their greatest achievements. And I would have to agree that both parents and children are all pretty exceptional.

In closing, Tamie told me that the things you get to experience and the people you meet thru IBHA is unbelievable. They feel truly blessed about everyone in their

**lives and feel like everyone is part of their extended family and they have so many friends that are like second parents to their kids.**

**Ben & Tamie, Congratulations on being inducted into the IBHA Hall of Fame. There is no doubt in my mind that everyone here in this room tonight feels that you are so very deserving of this honor.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Michele Zimmerman, Hall of Fame Chair  
Jean Schmitz, Hall of Fame Committee Member**