

TOBA November 2009 Member of the Month

Elisabeth Alexander and her daughter, Emily, accepting TOBA's 2006 State of Ohio Breeder of the Year Award



Elisabeth Alexander has parlayed what she calls a lifetime interest in Thoroughbred racing and breeding into a successful racing and breeding operation not only in Ohio, but nationally. Alexander and her husband, Quentin, own Eutrophia Farm in the northeast Ohio community of Chagrin Falls. The operation is diversified with interests in owning, breeding and racing Thoroughbreds.

For many years, Elisabeth Alexander, a regular at Kentucky Thoroughbred auctions, has been known as a top Ohio breeder. She often sends mares to Kentucky stallions and the resulting foals have fared well wherever they have competed. For instance, Alexander has been leading breeder at the Churchill Downs spring meet in Kentucky.

Alexander said the best horse she has raced is Magna Graduate, winner of the grade II Clark Handicap at Churchill Downs. Magna Graduate was privately purchased as a 3-year-old and won more than \$2 million in his career. Alexander said one goal was for Magna Graduate to make it as a stallion. Magna Graduate, by Honor Grades out of the Fast Play mare Peacock Alley, took up residence in the stud barn at Darby Dan Farm in Central Kentucky in 2009.

Some of the top horses bred or raced by Alexander in the past year are Awesome Granny, Bridge Game, Christies Treasure, Cryptopquip, Finish In Style and Jimmy Simms. Historically, her Ohio-foaled horses have excelled in the annual Best of Ohio championship stakes series. Alexander currently owns 25 mares, 11 yearlings, 16 foals and one stallion. She owns horses in partnership with Darby Dan Farm, Bob Reeves, and Burr Travis.

When asked what she enjoys most about Thoroughbred racing, Alexander said: "Everything—the family involvement and raising the 'grandchildren' of our first successful horses." On the Thoroughbred side, Alexander is immediate past president of the Ohio Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners and is serving a second term on the Ohio Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association board of directors.

Outside of racing, Alexander has been a past board member of the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Madeira School in Washington, D.C. She is past president of the Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in Cleveland and the Recreation League of Cleveland. She currently is a tournament duplicate bridge player.

Involvement in the OTBO and Ohio HBPA placed Alexander in the midst of Ohio politics. The state's racing and breeding industry has struggled for years, and during that time, horsemen and racetracks have lobbied for assistance in the form of alternative gaming. There remains a chance there could be action soon. But Alexander said the process has been challenging at the very least. "What I've found most difficult and challenging is trying to work with legislators to improve the failing Thoroughbred industry in Ohio," she said. The industry in general, she said, also needs assistance so Thoroughbred ownership becomes easier and more affordable.

"We need a unifying organization to pull together the disparate state rules that fragment the possibilities of successful Thoroughbred ownership," Alexander said.

Alexander and her family have been active on the equestrian side as well. The first horse she bought—in 1960—was a child's pony, which was purchased for hunter/jumper purposes. A TOBA member since 1992, Alexander has attended several TOBA clinics and was named TOBA's Ohio Breeder of the Year for her accomplishments in 1997 and 2006.

Elisabeth Alexander – TOBA's Member of the Month