

Halls Of Fame Welcome Six New Members

Three farriers and three equine veterinarians from around the world are honored for their passion and dedication to promoting hoof care

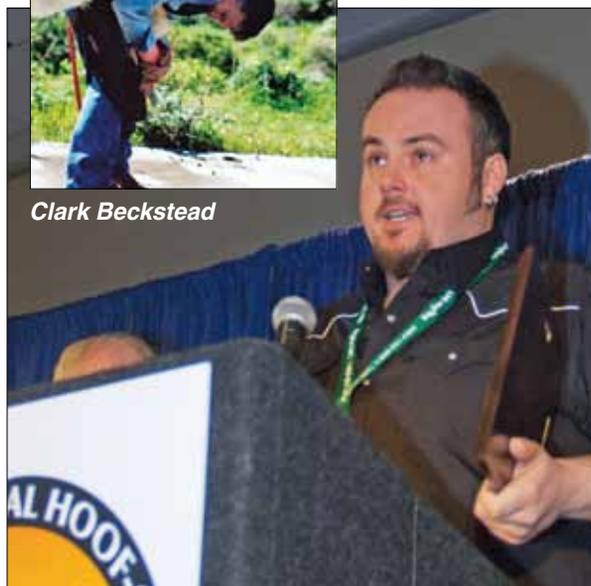
By Michelle Sauer,
Assistant Web Editor

The 2012 classes were inducted into the International Horseshoeing Hall Of Fame and the International Equine Veterinarian Hall Of Fame at the 9th annual International Hoof-Care Summit, Feb. 1 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The new members of the Halls Of Fame are farriers Clark Beckstead, James Findler and Rob Sigafoos. Inducted equine veterinarians include James Belknap, Amy Rucker and John Stewart.



Clark Beckstead



Beckstead's son, Justin, receives the Hall Of Fame honors on his father's behalf.

The International Horseshoeing Hall Of Fame

The International Horseshoeing Hall Of Fame was started in 1993. This year's three new members have all left their mark on the shoeing industry through hard work, dedication and a passion for equine footcare. A common thread in their careers is their willingness to share knowledge and help others in the industry improve the overall state of hoof care and soundness. Current members of the Hall served as the electors for this year's nominees.

The late **Clark Beckstead**, who passed away March 14, 2011, was a highly respected farrier in the Santa Barbara, Calif., community. He received many nominations praising his work, a true testament to his lasting impact.

Beckstead attended Oklahoma Farriers College in the early '70s on an impulse — an impulse that turned into an over 30-year career.

Beckstead's wife, Karen, and son, Justin, are overjoyed to see Clark's career honored in such a prestigious way. Justin says that the most rewarding part of his father's career was the many young and ambitious farriers he had the opportunity to share his knowledge with. The greatest satisfaction at the

INTERNATIONAL
HORSESHOEING



Hall Of Fame



The
International
Equine
Veterinarian
Hall Of Fame

end of each day for his father was when those he mentored would describe to him the many things they had learned that day.

On behalf of his father, Justin says, "This honor is the crowning achievement on the career of a man that did not seek out accolades or notoriety, yet I know ... he would be beaming with pride.

"I also know that he would have heartfelt congratulations to the other inductees and a sincere appreciation and humility to be amongst the elite in this trade.

"As his son, it gives me great pride to know that his legacy will continue on. In the words of one of his favorite country music artists, Vince Gill, 'Go rest high on that mountain, son, your work on Earth is done.'"

James Findler of White Rock, British Columbia, has been shoeing horses for over 30 years.

The idea of becoming a blacksmith originated from his grandfather. A short time later, in the fall of 1982, Findler enrolled in the Kwantlen College farrier program.

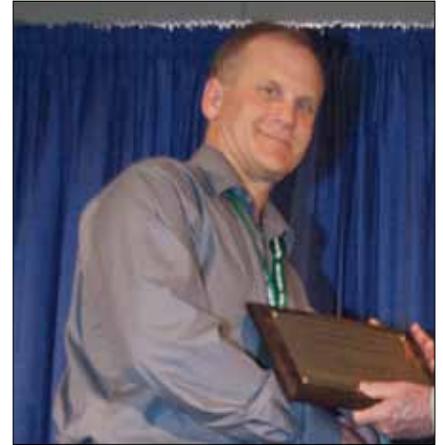
In no time, his life was completely consumed with shoe making and learning all there was to know about



Rob Sigafos



Dr. James Belknap



James Findler

the horse and hoof. He is grateful for his great mentor and instructor from the start, Hank McEwan (another International Horseshoeing Hall Of Fame member).

Findler's achievements have also been some of his most memorable experiences. In 1993, he won the Top Ten Horseshoeing at the World Championships in Calgary, Alberta. He

also became Forging Champion at the Calgary Stampede in 1996, as well as having the Best Shod Foot at the 2005 Calgary finals.

Having traveled and competed on the Canadian Farriers Team and judged the World Team Championships in Stoneleigh, England, in 1996 and the World Championships in Calgary in 2002, it's no surprise to those that

nominated him that he is now a Hall Of Fame member. But to Findler, it is "definitely one great surprise."

"I would like to thank all my great mentors, including Hank McEwan, Bob Marshall and Dave Duckett," he says. "I am thankful for all my horseshoeing friends around the world."

Rob Sigafos of Kennett Square, Pa., has had an extensive career,



We have what you need to keep them moving, featuring Kerckhaert, St. Croix, Diamond, Equine, EDSS, Victory and Mustad horseshoes.

East Coast Horseshoe Supply Co.
Your Middle Georgia Farrier Supply
2235 Hwy. 41 N. - Perry, GA 31069
www.eastcoasthorseshoe.com
Toll free 877-690-3851

Select No. 259 on Reader Service Card or www.americanfarriers.com/ff/products



DOUBLE «S»
Horseshoes Worldwide

SN SJ
RFA ABR

NORTH AMERICA DISTRIBUTOR
1 866-668-7642
1 651-287-8289

DELTA MUSTAD
HOOF CARE CENTER
www.doubles.it

Select No. 258 on Reader Service Card or www.americanfarriers.com/ff/products

with nearly 25 years as Chief of Farrier Services at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center until 2006.

He grew up in Northern Virginia and went to high school in Washington, D.C. His interest in horseshoeing developed while working for a local polo club. "I was fascinated by the lameness problems these horses were experiencing," he says.

At first he considered veterinary school, but at that time the veterinary profession wasn't able to offer horses much in terms of progressive remedies. Farriery, he felt, was the most direct road to innovative therapeutic intervention.

Looking back, Sigafoos says the most rewarding part of his career has been learning from some of the most talented and knowledgeable farriers and veterinarians in their professions.

"My father ... strongly believed that the best measure of a teacher is when his student goes on to surpass the teacher in their contributions." In that light, Sigafoos considers himself a good teacher and was one of the pioneers in working with glue-on shoes.

Humbled by his Hall Of Fame induction, Sigafoos says, "At first I was sure that I had been confused with someone who really deserved this honor. But when you grow up with such a mouthful of a last name, you rarely get confused with anyone.

"Seeing others who have also been inducted, I realize what an honor this is to be included in such a group."

The International Equine Veterinarian Hall Of Fame

The International Equine Veterinarian Hall Of Fame was established in 1997 to recognize equine practitioners who have contributed to furthering the knowledge and recognition of proper hoof care. Previously elected members of the Hall voted on this year's nominees.

Columbus, Ohio's, **James Belknap** is a valued member of the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and an associate professor in the Galbreath Equine Center at Ohio State.

His career began in his younger years on a livestock farm in Goshen, Ky., where they had "horses (cheap ones) and ponies (cheap, mean ones)."

However, moving to Colorado in high school and working with a mixed animal veterinarian really convinced him that he wanted to work with large animals. He went to veterinary school at Colorado State University.

Belknap's real fascination with feet came during his internship at the University of Georgia, where a great deal of work on laminitis was being performed. Over the years, Belknap attended more schools, conducted a large deal of research and began collaborating with many individuals throughout the world.

He was later recruited to Ohio State University to perform soft tissue surgery, lameness and podiatry in the clinics, while continuing his laminitis

research. He still researches at Ohio State, as well as at Auburn University.

Being recognized for his work by groups and individuals he has a great deal of respect for has meant much to him as a researcher — knowing that he is having a practical impact.

Belknap says even with all of his contributions, he feels that the farriers he has collaborated with have taught him much more than he taught them.

As a new Hall Of Fame inductee, he says, "Thank you. It's a great honor."

Amy Rucker of Columbia, Mo., has a long-held interest in footcare, which started to take shape working for Dr. Steve Tornberg in Harrisburg, S.D.

Not long after she arrived at her first job with Tornberg, she was pulling shoes during one of her first lameness exams. She says she was so lucky to land that job because "everyone at the clinic and all the local farriers had a way of building you up as you learned."

Many of her valuable lessons came from Dr. Ric Redden. In 1990, her life changed when she referred a laminitic horse to the Kentucky veterinarian. She said goodbye to the horse and sent him to Kentucky, but he returned 2 months later and his recovery was "amazing."

She visited Redden to learn how to continue the horse's care and returned with 44 pages of notes and three rolls of film.

But it was her second visit with Redden, during a blacksmithing lesson, which gave her the edge she needed to make it in the business.

Rucker says, "A year later I called him and asked him if he really thought I could learn to shoe. Doc said, 'It'll be like learning to drive. You'll run off the road a few times, but eventually you'll get where you're going.'

"He taught me to sweat the small stuff because the details are the difference between a horse being able to walk or run. He also taught me to have vision."

She is very humbled by her Hall Of Fame induction and thanks every person and horse she has ever met because each taught her a new lesson.

"I've always felt fortunate to be included in this industry that feels like a family to me," she says. "I feel like I've still got a long road ahead of me."

ANTISEPTIC BARRIER

SAV-A-HOOF SPRAY forms an **ANTISEPTIC BARRIER** between healthy tissue and infection. Bonds to hoof protein for long lasting protection. For treatment and prevention of white line disease, seedy toe & thrush.

Fight Hoof Disease!

SBSEQUINE.COM
239-354-3361

Instructional Videos!
www.sbsequine.com/sav-a-hoof-family/

Select No. 299 on Reader Service Card or
www.americanfarriers.com/ff/products



Dr. Amy Rucker

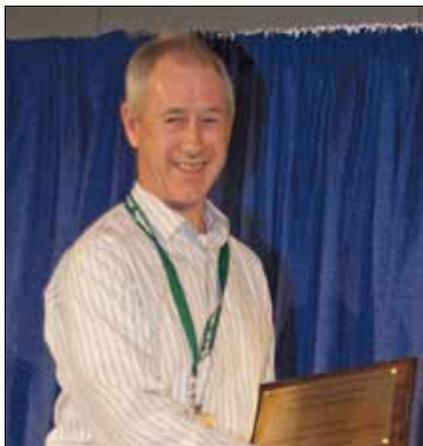
John Stewart hails from Dumfries, Scotland. He graduated from England's Cambridge University in 1977 and was in a mixed animal practice until 1992 when he set up his own veterinary practice, mainly equine.

In 1998, however, he became really "fired up" in laminitis research after Dr. Chris Pollitt's presentations at the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) Congress. Since then, he has been on the path to researching the complex laminitis puzzle.

After attending a weekend course given by Dr. Hiltrud Strasser — a barefoot proponent — in 2002, Stewart found himself agreeing with some things, disagreeing with others and found a large section in the middle that he didn't really know much about.

He set up his website, www.johnthevet.com, to post his research, articles and provide an open forum for people to contact him, and is currently writing a book for horse owners about horses' feet, which will be out later this year.

Stewart says, "I find it particularly rewarding when someone contacts me on the website to say a light has been



John Stewart

switched on and they now understand."

He has spoken at the International Hoof-Care Summits in 2007 and 2008, and says the IHCS is "a great place to get new ideas and to discuss old ones. I come away every year with questions, take a year to investigate and believe I have found the answer by the next year's Summit only to find more questions ... and so it goes on."

Stewart is truly honored by his Hall Of Fame induction, and says, "I do believe I can contribute to the knowledge and understanding of horses' feet and laminitis. I was very surprised and delighted to find that there are others who believe I can too, and have faith in me and my work to elect me into this prestigious group." 🐾

On The Web

Check Member Listings

To see a complete list of all members of both Halls Of Fame, go to www.americanfarriers.com and check the "Hall Of Fame" pages on the drop-down menu.

Nominees Sought For Class Of 2013

The deadline for nominating worthy individuals for either the International Horseshoeing Hall Of Fame or the International Equine Veterinarians Hall Of Fame is Aug. 31, 2012. Inductees of the Class of 2012 were announced during the 9th annual International Hoof-Care Summit in Cincinnati, Ohio.

To nominate a farrier or equine veterinarian for these awards, send a two- or three-page letter highlighting the candidate's career accomplishments to "Hall Of Fame Nomination," *American Farriers Journal*, P.O. Box 624, Brookfield, WI 53008-0624. Nomination letters can also be faxed to (262) 782-1252 or emailed to info@lesspub.com.



Oklahoma Horseshoeing School

We'll teach you to shoe horses like a master craftsman and to run your own successful horseshoeing business. Since 1973. There are more graduates of the Oklahoma Horseshoeing School employed in the horse industry than of any other school of any kind in the world. You will easily understand why when you compare the quality of work performed by our students and graduates. Our director, Jack Roth, is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Master Farrier. All instructors are Certified Journeyman Farriers. Come prepared to work. More hours of instruction per week on live horses than anywhere else. When you compare the total start up cost of setting up your business, the difference in your earnings will be tremendous. Courses include: Basic Horseshoeing (2 week- \$1,500); Professional Horseshoeing (8 week- \$4,000); Advanced Horseshoeing and Blacksmithing (12 week- \$5,400); Your room is free. Approved for Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation, WIA, BIA. Students may apply for loans under Oklahoma Horseshoeing School. Licensed by OBPVS. Call 405-288-6085 or 800-538-1383.

Write Oklahoma Horseshoeing School, 26446 Horseshoe Circle, Purcell, OK 73080. Website: www.horseshoes.net

Select No. 288 on Reader Service Card or www.americanfarriers.com/ff/products