

## Henderson Receives Max Gordon Award

Gene “Bambi” Henderson, Manchester, Iowa, has been named the 11<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Max Gordon Recognition Award. Henderson was honored at a ceremony held during the National Jersey Jug Futurity in Louisville, Ky., on November 10, 2013.

The Max Gordon Recognition Award is given annually to an exhibitor who possesses the five key elements for which the award’s namesake stood: sportsmanship, ethics, professionalism, ability and promotion of the Jersey cow. Recipients are chosen by a committee of individuals who have previously received the Max Gordon Recognition Award.

In the ceremony announcing Henderson as the winner of the award, AJCA-NAJ Executive Secretary Neal Smith commented, “His positive attitude and love of the business, particularly his love and promotion of the Jersey cow, make Gene ‘Bambi’ Henderson the ideal winner for this award.”

“Bambi is always personable and humble and a sportsman in every regard,” said Phil Gordon, Syracuse, Ind., son of the late Max Gordon. “He considers the Jersey community to be family and even remembers birthdays for many of his Jersey friends.”

Henderson grew up on a Holstein farm in eastern Iowa. He attended the University of Iowa, where he was a member of the dairy judging team that topped the national contest, and earned his degree in 1975. He worked in the feed and fertilizer business after graduation and then pursued a career in agriculture banking.

Though his job was in allied industry, Henderson’s greatest passion was showing great dairy cows. Among others, he has been a regular exhibitor at the Iowa and Minnesota State Fairs, the Wisconsin Spring Spectacular Show, the Wisconsin State Jersey Show, World Dairy Expo, The All American Jersey Show and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

“In a career that has spanned nearly 40 years, it would be safe to say that no one has led more champions in all breeds than Bambi,” stated Smith.

His passion for the brown cow grew after he purchased several fancy females in partnership with prominent Jersey breeders. A highlight was showing Nabholz Lady Diana, a cow he owned in partnership with Norman E. Nabholz, West Union, Iowa, to Grand Champion honors of the World Dairy Expo Jersey Show in 1985.



Josh Gordon, left, and Phil Gordon, right, congratulate Gene “Bambi” Henderson for being named the 11<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Max Gordon Recognition Award.

More recently, Bambi has found success with many animals owned in partnership with Meadowridge Jerseys, Cumberland, Wis. Each of the past six years, a heifer owned with a member of the Riebe family has earned an All American or Reserve All American award for her accomplishments at The All American Jersey Show. All American laurels were earned with Meadowridge King Locket (intermediate calf) in 2009; Meadowridge Roosevelt Susie (junior calf) and Meadowridge King Meagan (intermediate calf) in 2011; and Meadowridge Mac Kaitynn (junior calf) in 2012. “Kaitynn” earned laurels as the Reserve All American Junior Yearling in 2013 and also topped her class at the International Jersey Show a month earlier.

Equally successful presenting cows of other colors at their best, Bambi was at the halter of Buggs Blackstar Buffy when she was tapped Grand Champion of the International Holstein Show in 1996 and then named Reserve Supreme Champion of World Dairy Expo. He also led Stelbro Renata Ranger-Red to Grand Champion laurels of the International Red and White Show in 1998 and 2001. Both “Buffy” and “Ranger” were owned by Carrousel Farms, Orangeville, Ill. This year, he showed the Grand Champion of the Milking Shorthorn Show at World Dairy Expo, Lands-Brook Christina EXP-ET, for friend Jordan Langsgard of St. Olaf, Iowa.

“It would be virtually impossible to count the number of All Americans with which he has been at the halter—always with a smile and there to celebrate with class, be it a victory or a defeat.”

Previous winners include: Norman Nabholz, West Union, Iowa (2012); George Barlass, Janesville, Wis. (2011); Jim VanBuskirk, Mich. (2010); Brian Sayles, Ont. (2009); Mike Stiles, Va. (2008); the late Harry Mykrantz, Ohio (2007); Ronnie Rider, Ky. (2006); Chuck Myers, Ohio (2005); Charles Luchsinger, N.Y. (2004); and Ron Mosser, Ind. (2003).