

WCC Heartland  
**Rough And Ready**

2009 World's Champion Four-Year-Old Hackney Pony  
2009 World's Champion of Champions Junior Hackney Pony

Owned by:  
Toni Nastali  
Springside Stables  
Downers Grove, Illinois

Trained by:  
Rich and Maureen Lydon-Campbell  
Majestic Oaks  
Simpsonville, Kentucky

For Springside Stables owner Toni Nastali, it's been a fun trip since first becoming involved in the American Saddlebred and Hackney pony world. A world she was first introduced to by her brother, Jim Nuzzo. Jim grew up riding at Don and Jo Lanners' High Style Stables in Wheaton, Ill., and was a buddy of the Lanners' son, Bob. Employment, marriage and parenthood took Jim down different paths as it did for Toni, who was busy raising a son and daughter.

One day, Toni decided to go to the Durants' Bell View Acres with her brother. Little did she know that day would forever change her life. From that day forward, she's been involved in one way or another with the show horse industry, as an active participant not only in the show ring with her Saddle Horses and Hackney Ponies, but also with breeding on a small scale to her own small band of Saddlebred mares.

While Toni appears to be a very soft spoken, congenial and mild mannered person, make no mistake that this lovely lady is also a shrewd businesswoman with a particular mind for all things service oriented. Running a successful "spring align" business with locations all over Chicagoland, Toni has also served as the National President for the organization that serves the heavy duty trucking industry, and was the first woman to do so. This is a position that has kept her busy traveling when not at shows or running her business, Spring-Align, Inc., from her home in Downers Grove, Illinois – a western suburb of Chicago.

Toni's son, Alan, who is a CPA, joined her at Spring-Align, something she is most proud of. Toni's family is also growing. Her son and his wife, Michelle, now have three children and Toni's daughter, Nicole is married and living in North Carolina. Toni enjoys making frequent trips out there to visit Nicole and her husband and two small children. Toni is also very close with her siblings: Jim (Nuzzo), and sisters Marian and Lucille. Toni proudly

continued on page 82



Midtown Man and Toni Nastali.



Heartland Victory Maker and Toni Nastali.

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Saddle & Bridle (ISSN: 0036-2271) (USPS: 475-060) is published monthly for \$79 per year by Saddle & Bridle, Inc., 375 Jackson Ave., St. Louis, Mo., 63130. Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, MO and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Saddle & Bridle, 375 Jackson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63130-4243.

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Cover Story continued from page 4

advocates for the UPHA Pink Ribbon class in honor of her sisters, both breast cancer survivors.

On the horse scene, one of Toni's earliest acquisitions was the champion Park horse, CH First & Ten, whom she purchased in 1998, originally in partnership with her brother, Jim. After a couple of fun seasons with "Ten",



CH Harlem's Mojo and Toni Nastali.

including his win of the Amateur Park Stake at Midwest Charity in 1999 with Sarah Larson (Shakespeare) aboard, Toni went on to become affiliated for nine seasons with Bob Griffin and Tom Thorpe's Northern Tradition Farm.

In 2001, Bob and Tom selected the proven campaigner Midtown Man to be Toni's new entry for the Country Pleasure Driving division. Together, they were quite an elegant team to watch. Their couple of years together culminated in the 2001 World's Champion of Champions title at Louisville in the Country Pleasure Driving division. They graced Saddle & Bridle's September 2001 front cover and that marked the first time that a Louisville winner graced both our September and October front covers.

In May of 2003, Toni's next significant purchase was the grand roadster pony, Heartland Victory Maker (Dun Haven Bandolier x Heartland Victorious) whom she selected from Darrell Kolkman with Rich Campbell as trainer. "Victor" made his first showing under Toni's ownership at Madison Classic 2003, a victorious one. Trainer Bob Griffin then took over the

preparation of this then three-year-old Hackney. 2004 was another banner year for Toni's Springside Stables given that Victor was named the 2004 World's Champion of Champions Junior Hackney Road Pony with Griffin presenting, as well as the UPHA Classics Grand Champion the same year. Toni took over the lines in 2005 and together this was another dynamic pairing. They had much success, including three years in a row finding themselves in the winner's circle at the American Royal.

Feeling that perhaps she wanted to market Victor for sale, she made a tough move and sent the pony to his original trainer, Rich Campbell, who by this time had partnered up with lifelong horsewoman, Maureen Lydon. Lydon, a native of Massachusetts is the daughter of the late horseman Tim Lydon and granddaughter of Johnny "Waseeka's Nocturne" Lydon of Morgan fame. Lydon came with vast experience from her youth as well as several good years with Debbie Foley's Silver Brook Stables. Together, Campbell and Lydon were really establishing themselves as a tough team to beat and were now operating out of Rudy and Sharon Lewis' facility under the name Majestic Oaks.

Toni and Victor campaigned for about a season and a half, winning the Kentucky County Fair Roadster Pony Grand Championship at Louisville in 2008 as well as many other classes right up through Lexington Junior League '09 where they were Reserve in a top class of Amateur Road ponies. It was there that trainers Mike and Jessie Richardson selected Victor for their client to become the new juvenile pony for Alex Ververeli. Victor was fully qualified for the Kentucky County Fair Road Pony Championship at Louisville in '09 and went on to win that class with Michael Richardson presenting for his new owners.

Toni, thoroughly enjoying the Hackney ponies, purchased the red chestnut cobtail pony, Kilbro's Code Red, who was shown by Maureen Lydon to much success at the tail end of 2008. This pony was also purchased a short time after Toni got him, by James & Helen Rosburg and directed by Ruth Gimpel and Ronnie Graham.

Once again, after Toni sold both of these ponies, she was missing the road pony events and selected the neat pony Heartland Most Wanted ("Jesse") from the estate of Jane Mueller. And this nice pony has gone on to much success at ASHAV and Southeastern under the Majestic Oaks banner. At the same time as that selection, Toni also purchased another cobtail in the outstanding and previously unshown

Heartland Rough & Ready, by Heartland Victory and out of the mare Heartland Ruby Red, a full sister to many times champion cobtail, WGC Heartland Equality. Never having shown before can be a rather risky plan of attack for one to debut at Louisville's "Big Dance", but for Rough & Ready, it just seemed to be so natural as this dark bay performed flawlessly with Lydon presenting to the Four-Year-Old Hackney Pony World's Championship before returning for the Junior Hackney Grand Championship. Since Louisville, a quick and easy stopover win at the Kentucky Fall Classic for Rough & Ready seemed another nice warm up for their appearance in the UPHA/American Royal's UPHA Classic Hackney Pony Grand Championship appearance with Maureen Lydon-Campbell presenting for Toni's Springside Stables.

For her Saddlebred activities, Toni also frequently participates in the shows both riding and driving. In 2009, she's had a great year showing the outstanding fine harness mare, CH Cary's Moonraker for her good friend, Margo Baird Valentine's MBA Equestrians. Together, Cary and Toni were the 2009 Reserve World's Champion of Champions in Ladies Amateur Fine Harness at Louisville, under the direction of Pat McConnell. This pair also shined true with the 2009 All American Classic Amateur Fine Harness Championship title. MBA Equestrians also trains Toni's personal pleasure mount, the South African bred gelding SJ Denmark's Geronimo, who has been a winner for Toni in 2009 at: Glen Valley, All American Classic, the Illinois State Fair, and a nice reserve at St. Louis.

Toni has also had success with Gigolo Joe, and her grey gaited pleasure horse, CH My Pepper Ann has been capably shown by Brittany Baird to much success, including the Gaited Pleasure Stake win at the 2009 ASAW Summerfun Show where she received her "CH" status. The handsome black Harlem Globemaster son, Harlem's Mojo and Toni are frequent winners in the Country Western Pleasure events, having just won the qualifier and stake at the recent Kentucky Fall Classic.

As mentioned, Toni also dabbles as a small-breeder (two broodmares) and has done so with some success. Toni's former personal pleasure mount, Getting Fancy by Radiant Sultan, is the dam of the sensational World's Champion three-gaited horse, I'm McDreamy, now owned by Steven Chancellor and shown by his daughter, Hunter, under the direction of DeLovely Farm.

— Brendan Heintz