



## Recognizing North American-Bred Sport Horses With Laura Connaway

For the fifth year in a row, Laura Connaway, president of [Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc.](#), will present the Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc., High Point North American-Bred Horse Award to the American-bred horse who earns the highest-scoring round across all professional divisions and classes at the Capital Challenge Horse Show running Thursday, September 28, through Sunday, October 8, 2023, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

As the breeder of her own grand prix jumping mounts, the breeding of sport horses in North America is a personal passion for Connaway. The Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc., High Point American-Bred Horse Award is an extension of this passion as she aims to build recognition for responsible sport horse breeding throughout the United States and Canada. Read on to learn more about the award and Connaway's hope for the future of breeding in North America.



*Laura Connaway and homebred Quite Funny compete at the grand prix level.  
Photo by Lili*

### What was the impetus for starting the Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc. High Point American-Bred Horse Award at Capital Challenge? What does the award mean to you?

Laura Connaway: Sport horse breeders in North America receive little recognition for the horses they produce as compared to their European counterparts. To me, this award is one way to highlight the quality of sport horses that are bred in the U.S. and Canada. The Capital Challenge Horse Show is the perfect venue for this award because it draws so many quality horses from both countries.

### What is your hope for the future of breeding in North America?

Laura Connaway: The quality and quantity of North American-bred horses has improved so much during the past 10 years. North American breeders are producing horses from strong, proven bloodlines. My hope for the future of breeding in North America is that riders and owners will learn as much as they can about the bloodlines of the horses they admire in their chosen discipline. Being informed with this level of knowledge will better equip riders and owners to shop confidently for North American-bred horses because they'll have a greater understanding of the qualities and traits they can expect from specific bloodlines.

### As the breeder of your own grand prix jumping mounts, what is it like to breed and produce your horses? What is the best part? What are the challenging moments?

Laura Connaway: I have a small breeding program and produce horses for myself. The foundation of my breeding program started with two mares, both of which I competed at the grand prix show jumping level. The offspring of these mares have also become amazing young horses.

Raising a horse from birth to the grand prix level is the most rewarding experience. I enjoy every step of the process from the first ride to each level of competition. The most challenging moments in a small breeding program come when the young horse you produce is injured or lets you know that they would prefer to compete in a different discipline. For example, I bred a horse with the intention of adding it to my jumper string, however, he showed me he would prefer the hunter ring and he turned out to be a wonderful amateur mount.

In addition, I only have each mare produce one foal every few years and this can leave a hole in my program. I bought a mare this year to help bridge this gap and enable me to produce a foal in the future.

### What can we do to continue to foster the responsible breeding of quality sport horses in North America?

Laura Connaway: I am in awe of the quality of horses being produced in North America. It is substantially more expensive to feed, board, and train horses on this continent as compared to Europe. By offering awards or incentives that recognize the quality of sport horses here, we can continue to amplify all that North American breeders have to offer.

## Last Chance To Enter Your Horse for the Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc. High Point American-Bred Horse Award



*To enter your horse for the Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc. High Point American-Bred Horse Award, email Jessica Kiel at [secretary@capitalchallenge.org](mailto:secretary@capitalchallenge.org). No entry fee is required.  
Photo by Jump Media*

North American-bred horses competing in the professional hunter divisions, green hunter 3' and 3'3" divisions, the WCHR Professional Challenge, and the WCHR Developing Professional Challenge at the Capital Challenge Horse Show have the opportunity to earn the Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc. High Point American-Bred Horse Award at The Capital Challenge Horse Show.

Enter your horse by emailing Jessica Kiel at [secretary@capitalchallenge.org](mailto:secretary@capitalchallenge.org). No entry fee is required.

The 2023 High Point American-Bred Horse Award will be presented on Friday evening, October 6, prior to the popular \$25,000 WCHR Professional Finals competition.

For more information, visit [CapitalChallenge.org](http://CapitalChallenge.org) and view the [2023 Capital Challenge Horse Show Prize List](#).

### About Connaway & Associates Equine Insurance Services, Inc.

At Connaway & Associates, teamwork allows horse people to protect horse people. Since 1992, Connaway & Associates has built a strong reputation as a reliable partner in competition and in business. Connaway & Associates is licensed in 48 states and offers competitive insurance coverage options through several A-rated admitted insurance carriers. Connaway & Associates does the work so its clients can enjoy their passion for horses. For more information on Connaway & Associates and its offerings, visit [www.connaway.net](http://www.connaway.net).