

It's in the books!



50th

CITRUS CUP REGIONAL



CHEERS TO 50!!!

The Citrus Cup Regional's 50th Anniversary was an overwhelming success at the popular World Equestrian Center in Ocala April 23-25. Multi world champions from across the east – including New Jersey, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, the Carolinas and of course Florida competed for the title of Regional Champion!

Citrus Cup being an all-breed attracted over 260 horses and featured over 400 classes in many disciplines—dressage, carriage, overfences as well as main ring classes featuring not only Morgans but American Saddlebreds, Hackneys, Gypsy Vanners and the most adorable Mini!

Citrus Cup champions from past years were honored on the Jumbotron throughout the show. Exhibitors were treated to many surprises – beginning with the exhibitors' bags that were overflowing with horse supplies, special tumblers, and of course Girl Scout cookies- a favorite treat. A special breakfast room was set up in the barn with delicious breakfast goodies – as well as gathering area for interesting morning conversation! Ring side tables were decorated in the traditional Citrus Cup theme with baskets of oranges and other treats as well as nightly catered dinner and the bartenders served the show's special 50th anniversary drink – Victory Pass and Golden Jubilee

The awards were unique for the 50th – all class winners received a Citrus Cup Anniversary logo "winner" hat. Champions made their victory passes wearing the garland of red roses with the 50th logo on the custom plate and an LL Bean Embroidered boat bag. A special surprise was at the out gate as a random drawing was held for every championship class Friday and Saturday night – the winning exhibitor and trainer received a \$50 bill to commemorate the 50th anniversary!

Citrus Cup 50th was special- as it should have been. Many FMHA members and volunteers spent countless hours working to make it a show to remember! See you next year April 21-14,2027 at The Ocala World Equestrian Center for Citrus Cup 51!

Class results are available at AMHA.com or horseshowsonline.com



A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY.....50 YEARS OF CITRUS CUP

In 1979 I became show chair and manager of the Citrus Cup - and this will be my 47th year. I am so proud to be managing number 50! It has been a challenge and a joy watching this show grow from the first of 30 horses to currently over 250. The history of Citrus Cup begins in Ocala.

In 1970 the Florida Morgan Horse Association was reorganized. One of the first order of business was to establish a horse show-named The Florida Morgan Horseshow Assoc Show In the beginning the goal was to sponsor a show to showcase our beautiful Florida Morgan horses and hopefully make enough money to pay the bills. As our show has grown so has our club goals and profit. In addition to supporting club activities, we have been able to establish a FMHA youth member scholarship which is to be used to further the members education in a 2yr, 4yr, or trade school setting, we have contributed funds to Handicapped riding programs, (Stirrups and Strides and The Marion Therapeutic Riding Horse Assoc) both located in Marion County and contributed to the Juvenile Diabetes Association. The first couple of years the show was held at a small facility in Tampa, with limited number of stalls But, it was a starting point. The show committee (Ann Buxton, Bob Inkel, Dr Steve Gilman) decided a better facility was needed to facilitate the growth we were hoping for. The decision was made in 1974 to move to the Southeastern Livestock Pavillion in Ocala. The facility offered more stalls, a nice office, concession stand and room to work horses when not showing. The city of Ocala offered quality hotels , quaint shops, activities for families when not showing, and excellent restaurants Everything needed to promote growth for a young show .With the move to Ocala, the show named was changed and Citrus Cup was officially “born” in Ocala , September 1975.

The move to Ocala proved to be a good one. The facility being in north Florida, close to the interstate, made it easy for Morgan Horse exhibitors from Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas to come to the show. They also brought exhibitors, grooms, spectators to the show which gave a big boost to the Ocala economy. - We were thrilled when Southeast Pavillion was upgraded. The additions to the facility the covering of the arena, addition of another work ring, and the overall appearance of the facility enhanced the appeal of our show.

The continual increase to the number of exhibitors was great for Ocala and the show – but unfortunately, we had outgrown the facility. We needed more stalls. The decision was made to move to Canterbury, in Newberry, Florida. During this time, we applied for and received Regional Status. Ribbon winners at a Regional are automatically qualified to compete at the Morgan Grand National and World’s Champion Horse Show held in Oklahoma City during the month of October. Citrus Cup had to compete with other Morgan shows in the Southeast for this honor by presenting convincing statistics as to the value of our show for the Morgan breed. It is an honor and a lot of work being a Regional! With the popularity of the show and Regional status we grew to the max of their available space. Time to look around for a larger facility. All eyes were focused on the development of the new World Equestrian Center in Ocala !

In 2022 we entered discussions with the management of The Worlds Equestrian Center to move the show to this” state of the art” facility. Contracts were signed - April 2024 Citrus Cup Regional was held in Arena 5. Our entries doubled! Exhibitors came from not only the southeast but from all parts of the country, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Colorado to name a few. We sold out the block of rooms at both the Equestrian, the WEC campground slots and several rooms at nearby hotels. Everyone wants to show at WEC- and when they are here, they spend money at the local stores, hotels, and restaurants. Our move has been such a success that we have no plans to leave! The 2024 was named “The Most Improved Show “in the country by Horse World People’s Choice vote. During our years in Marion County over 3000 horses have competed, 15,000 trainers, exhibitors and spectators have visited Ocala, and several barns have decided to move to Florida permanently!Visitors included officers of the American Morgan Horse Association and US Equestrian Federation, and executives of major companies. We have coverage in major horse publication, and our show is live streamed on Richfield Video Productions an international video service.

The list of Morgan World Champions who have shown at Citrus Cup reads like a “who’s who” of the Morgan World. Being the first major show of the show season makes it attractive to trainers, it is a great place to introduce new riders horse combinations and young horses to the show world. Citrus Cup gives trainers a head start on getting their horses qualified for the World Championship show!

ALICIA DAVIS

Reflections on Citrus Cup from Alicia Davis

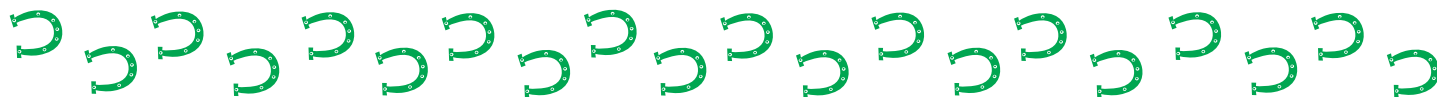
As I sit here, exhausted, and reflect on 50 years of the Citrus Cup, I'm grateful to have had the honor of managing this show. I've watched it grow from a few classes at the Florida State Fair to one of AMHA's premier Regional shows, featuring more than 270 horses and 400 classes. Seeing it develop has felt like raising a child—there were plenty of growing pains, but we made it. I'm proud of what we've built, and I'm confident the Citrus Cup will keep growing and improving with time.



Thinking of joining our Tropical Trotters youth group? Now is the time! You do not have to own a horse or show in order to join. The club is back in action for 2026, kicking off with an ice cream social at Citrus Cup for all youth riders with 21 participants able to attend. Nothing better than cold ice cream on a warm day!

Jennifer Hunt will be leading the group this year. Check on the Tropical Trotters facebook page for updates, club meetings and general information. Among other activities, the club members will be working on their AMHA badges.

Jennifer can be reached at: tropicaltrotters@fmha.net



UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

May 30-31 Summer Fun Horse Show, Florida State Fairgrounds

July 29 - August 1, 2026 Tryon Masterpiece Horse Show inaugural show Tryon International Equestrian Center, Tryon NC
www.tryonmasterpiece.com for more information

Sept 2-6 FMHA Summer's End Horse Show, World Equestrian Center, Ocala, FL

October 10-17 Morgan Grand National & World Championship, Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City

FLORIDA MORGAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

President

Charlene Kolodziej
charlene.kolodziej@gmail.com

Vice President

Channing Ligas
channingligas@gmail.com

Secretary

Jacqueline Elliot
jackiesell3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jeanette Singleton.....813-768-8089
singletonjeanette@gmail.com

FMHA WEB SITE: www.fmha.net

follow us on Facebook pages:

Florida Morgan Horse Assn.

Tropical Trotters

Citrus Cup Morgan Horse Show

Summers End Horse Show

Instagram: Florida Morgan Horse Assn.

DIRECTORS

Sally Ann Lyle.....352-401-0252
sal4art@embarqmail.com

Diane Tanguay 813-949-7509
dsstella@aol.com

Ashley Zimmerman.....678-777-2446
acz@bellsouth.net

Glenn Winograd.....813-833-2247
glenn@cesfl.com

Alicia Davis.....352-472-6727
aliciaraindropfarm@gmail.com

Janice Scotto.....813-409-5272
whisperingoaksequestrian@gmail.com

Bryan Clarke.....904-874-06576
kimberkauf@gmail.com

Immediate past President

Martha Stein.....813-833-6382
mgs4547@gmail.com

CHAIRMEN & COORDINATORS

Citrus Cup Chair

Alicia Davis.....352-472-6727
raindropfarm@aol.com

High Point Coordinator

Diane Tanguay.....813-949-7509
dsstella@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Sally Ann Lyle.....352-401-0252
artist@sallylyle.com

Summer's End Show Chair

Glenn Winograd.....813-833-2247
glenn@cesfl.com

Web Site Coordinator

Tami Johnson.....314-750-1397
tami@masterworks.net

Tropical Trotters

Jennifer Hunt

tropicaltrotters@fmah.net