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**Photo available upon request*

The Heubeck and Windham Family Recognized with the Robert N. Clay Conservation Award

Lexington, KY.- September 13, 2017- Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) is pleased to announce that The Heubeck Family of Marion County, Florida has been named the 2017 recipient of the Robert N. Clay Conservation Award. The award, name in recognition of Robert N. Clay's equine land conservation leadership in the Thoroughbred industry, was given at the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association National Awards dinner on September 9th in Lexington, KY.

The Heubeck Family; Harriet, Elmer, Kerry, James, and Lee Windham, have been recognized for their family's association with the beginnings of the thoroughbred farm phenomenon in Marion County, Florida as well as their commitment to equine land conservation.

Harriet and Elmer Heubeck, Jr. managed both Rosemere farm (the first Thoroughbred farm in the county) and Hobeau Farm (a national leading Thoroughbred breeding farm and racing stable). The couple subsequently developed their own unique property, Quail Roost Farm, which became home to a thoroughbred breeding and training facility, a commercial beef cattle operation, and a notable private exotic game preserve.

Harriet and Elmer both passed away in 2003, and their son Kerry sought to protect the 1,000-acre Quail Roost II as memorial to his parents. Kerry, along with new owners James and Lee Windham, worked with Conservation Trust for Florida to protect and limit development on approximately 800 acres of Quail Roost II. The 1,000-acre farm was split so 200 acres of the farm were conserved under a conservation easement, 800 acres were sold with deed restrictions to control potential development, and the last 200 acres was sold as a thoroughbred breeding/racing farm.

Lee Windham was especially enthusiastic about protecting their new farm from development for the future, and worked with the Conservation Trust for Florida and Kerry Heubeck on the language for the easement and deed restrictions. Upon passing in 2016, James decided to place the farm up for sale. With the easement and deed restrictions, along with the well-developed facilities and equine heritage, the farm is expected to remain open land.

Marion County is the heart of the second largest thoroughbred breeding industry in North America, has more horses and ponies than any other county, includes over 1100 county equine farms, and is host to many international high profile equine events. This award recognizes the Heubeck and the Windham Family who were among the first to create the equine environment that has made Marion County and Ocala famous.

H'Krih Shelhamer, daughter of Kerry Heubeck, accepted the award at the 32 Annual TOBA dinner September 9th, 2017.

About the Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR): ELCR builds awareness of the loss of lands available for horse-related activities and facilitates the protection and preservation of those lands. We work to ensure America's equine heritage lives on and the emotional, physical and economic benefits of the horse-human relationship remains accessible. ELCR serves as an information resource and clearinghouse on conserving horse properties, land use planning, land stewardship/best management practices, trails, liability and equine economic development. For more information about the ELCR visit www.elcr.org or call (859) 455-8383

About the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA): TOBA, based in Lexington, Ky., was formed in 1961 and is a national trade organization of leading Thoroughbred breeders and owners. TOBA's mission is to improve the economics, integrity and pleasure of the sport on behalf of Thoroughbred owners and breeders. Projects managed by TOBA include the American Graded Stakes Committee, Claiming Crown, Ownership Seminars, Ownerview.com and the Sales Integrity Program. TOBA provides international representation for U.S. owners and breeders on the International Grading and Race Planning Advisory Committee, International Cataloguing Standards Committee and International Breeders Federation. Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA) is the charitable arm of TOBA. TOBA is the owner of The Blood-Horse Inc., and is represented as a founding member on the board of directors of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium