

Masters of Fox Hounds Association Honored with the Anson W. Taylor, Jr. Equine Land Conservation Leadership Award

Lexington, KY – January 27, 2018 - Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) is pleased to announce the Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) as the recipient of the 2018 the Anson W. Taylor, Jr. Award for Leadership in Equine Land Conservation.

The award, named for the late preservationist, land conservator, avid foxhunter, equestrian and ELCR co-founder, Anson W. Taylor Jr., was established by the ELCR Board of Directors to recognize individuals and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to preserving land for equine use through their extraordinary generosity of time, effort and expertise.

The MFHA was honored with the Anson W. Taylor, Jr. Award at the MFHA annual meeting on January 26, 2018 in New York City. The MFHA, established in 1907, is comprised of 151 hunts and over 6,000 members in 43 states and 3 Canadian provinces. Conservation and the preservation of farm and open land and access to public lands has always been a priority for the organization as fox hunting is an equestrian field sport that requires large amounts of contiguous open space. Member hunts and individual members have spearheaded efforts to permanently conserve lands, open equestrian access, and create conservation education programs across the US and Canada.

While conservation has been a core value since its inception in 1907, recordkeeping on conservation achievements did not begin at MFHA until 1997. Since that year, MFHA members have been catalysts in conservation and land access with projects totaling over 1.7 million acres. 1.5 million acres of that land has been permanently conserved with another .2 million of public lands opened to equestrian access and hunting.

“This is a much overdue recognition”, said ELCR Board of Directors President Ken Haddad, “as MFHA has long been a leader in conserving land for equine use. Collectively the MFHA Masters and members truly epitomize the Anson Taylor Jr. Award for outstanding contributions to conserving land for equine use through their extraordinary generosity of time, effort and resources.”

Former award recipients include Mr. and Mrs. C. Martin Wood III (2016) masters of the Live Oak Hounds, from Monticello Florida; Russell Martin (2013) of the Show-Me Missouri Backcountry Horsemen; Robert Clay (2010) a Kentucky Thoroughbred breeder and land conservationist and founder of Bluegrass Tomorrow and the Bluegrass Conservancy; Majorie V. Kittredge (2011) founder of Windrush Therapeutic Equitation in Massachusetts and owner of Windrush Farm, a property that was conserved with help from a number of towns and organizations, awarded posthumously; and Caledonia Conservancy of Racine Wisconsin (2012), a Land Trust, for the organization’s land conservation efforts, trail preservation and access to trails on private lands. For a complete list of prior award winners, please visit www.elcr.org.

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 conservation of those lands working 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 impact. For more information about the ELCR visit www.elcr.org or call (859) 455-8383