

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **George Strawbridge, Jr. Honored with the Robert N. Clay Conservation Award**

Lexington, KY.- September 13, 2018- Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) is pleased to announce that George Strawbridge, Jr. was honored with the 2018 Robert N. Clay Conservation Award at the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association(TOBA) National Awards dinner on September 8<sup>th</sup> in Lexington, Kentucky.

The award, established in 2014 as a partnership between TOBA and ELCR to help increase awareness of the importance of land conservation to the Thoroughbred industry and to serve as an inspiration to others within the industry, is presented annually at the TOBA National Awards dinner.

Strawbridge, through his Augustin Stable, has been an important player in both flat and steeple chase racing and an industry leader. He has also been at the forefront in land conservation. Over the years Strawbridge, has purchased several farms in Pennsylvania with the purpose of establishing a conservation easement on the land to preserve the beauty and function of the property. While some of the properties were subsequently sold once an easement was in place, he retains ownership of over 900 acres of farmland in Pennsylvania, all of which are under conservation easement.

George has been recognized as an ardent supporter of open space preservation for decades. His donation of multiple conservation easements to the Brandywine Conservancy, since 1993, has protected over 2,500 acres of land in Lancaster and Chester counties. Strawbridge was one of the original investors in the Buck and Doe Associates Limited Partnership that bought and conserved the King Ranch Property totaling over 5,000 acres.

Strawbridge is an active trustee of the Brandywine Conservancy and encourages landowners to conserve their properties so that future generations have a chance to appreciate the land before it is lost to development.

**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](http://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