

Maryland Combined Training Association

THE SPECIAL EDITION TROPHY



When the engraver squeezed the very last possible name onto MCTA's Pancho Villa Trophy after the 2017 recognized event at Shawan Downs, necessitating its retirement, JoAnne Offidani; MCTA's entry secretary extraordinaire, along with her husband and family, saw an opportunity to honor Special Edition ("Mercedes") by donating this lovely replacement trophy. Mercedes was JoAnne's first horse, who was put into retirement after fracturing her coffin bone. As an OTTB, Mercedes had successfully campaigned through Training Level at recognized events until she and her rider had a nasty fall which sapped their confidence. JoAnne, who had never competed above the unrecognized Beginner Novice level at that point, then bought the mare. After one BN event they moved right up to Novice where they competed for several years, never finishing below fifth! Unfortunately, no sooner had JoAnne sent in the entry for their first Training event than Mercedes got hurt and was off for six months. Finally back in shape and ready to go again, they entered another Training event . . . and Mercedes was injured again. At this point arthritis and her racing past caught up with the mare and she never made it back to eventing. Fittingly, this trophy was originally for the MCTA junior/young rider member (since 2025, just junior) with the best score at Training Level at our recognized event, so even though she and Special Edition never quite made it back to that level JoAnne looks forward each year to seeing it presented to an up-and-coming pair that has.

2018	Delaney O'Neil (An Irish Blessing)
2019	Leah Hiener (Say No More)
2020	Event canceled due to Covid-19 Pandemic
2021	not awarded
2022	not awarded
2023	not awarded
2024	not awarded
2025	not awarded
2026	not awarded



Special Edition and JoAnne (Jones) Offidani eventing at Olney Farm in 2008 . . .

Laura Spear photos

. . . and at
Fair Hill in
2009.
GRC Photo



The pair at a dressage show in 2014.

Mary Pat Meagher photo