

# SKYLINERS

*Horses and people making headlines.*

## A 'Nick' Overlooked

*By Christine Hamilton*

FOLKS MADE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT THE 2004 ALL AMERICAN Quarter Horse Congress high-point all-around horse, Distinctly Sweet, and the reserve high-point all-around horse, The Attraction, came from the same sireline. Distinctly Sweet is by Art I Sweet, a son of Artful Move; and The Attraction is by Artful Move.

But not so many noticed the mare that also showed up in both pedigrees. Distinctly Sweet's sire, Art I Sweet, is a full sibling to The Attraction; they are both out of a mare named Joanne Woodward.

Theresa and Christopher Vacik of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, have owned "Joanne" since 1993, and are the breeders of record for Art I Sweet and The Attraction.

"Joanne was a great halter mare that could ride, and had halter and riding in her background," Theresa said. "By crossing her with the great hunt seat stallion Artful Move, we achieved outstanding all-around offspring that had great movement, great minds as well as athletic ability."

The Vaciks breed only two or three mares each year, and Theresa credits Christopher as the key to the success of their small breeding operation.

"He studied bloodlines and always felt an outstanding mare with great bloodlines that could produce was extremely important, not just the sire," she said. "In 2004, Joanne was listed with the National Snaffle Bit Association as one of the top 40 dams of money earners."

"Joanne is now 25 years old and is retired as 'Queen of Our Barn,'" Theresa added.

The combination of Joanne and Artful Move might just illustrate the old bloodstock mystery of the "nick," a genetic pairing that consistently produces outstanding individuals. Joanne Woodward is by Mr Poco Music and out of Jolene Straw by What A Straw. Artful Move is by Wind Chime and out of Buzz Fly by Flying Warship.

If you're interested in exploring their pedigrees further, don't forget that your AQHA membership comes with \$10 of free online records each month. Login to Member Services at [www.aqha.com](http://www.aqha.com) and check out the extensive pedigree records AQHA has made available online.

We'll give you one interesting tidbit: Joanne traces back to the legendary Jackstraw (TB) through his quarter-type Thoroughbred son, Jackstraw Jr. Old-time breeders made a habit of looking twice at mares with Jackstraw (TB) blood on the dam side of their pedigrees.



Joanne Woodward

TERESA VACIK