

William R. King Perpetual Trophy

The William R. King Perpetual Trophy is awarded annually to the Junior team or individual that earns the highest total number of points in any given year's Bedford County Hunter Pace Series. The winning team or individual must compete in all the paces.

The trophy is awarded in honor of Bill King, who served as Professional Huntsman to the Bedford County Hunt for 41 years, from 1972 to 2013. Originally, it was awarded to the champion of the fox hunter division at our fall horse shows. It is now awarded to the top junior team or individual in the Junior Division of our Hunter Pace Series to encourage young riders to advance from hunter paces to fox hunting. The trophy was sponsored by a group of long-term members of the hunt who desired to express their great appreciation for the sport he provided for so many years.

Bill came to Bedford from the Radnor Hunt in Pennsylvania where he was the professional huntsman, following in the footsteps of his father, Harry King, who hunted hounds for the prominent industrialist George Brooks in Philadelphia. As Bill recounted to Ed Cann, MFH, he started hunting "when I was eight and hunted my pony in a halter and shank. My uniform was a pair of blue jeans." Bill was not just a huntsman, he was truly a "houndsman," and became known as "King of the National Beagle Club" for his champion Beagle pack, the Fox Valley Beagles. He was a known expert on fox hound breeding, particularly Penn-Marydel foxhounds. Our hound Winston, who was Champion at the 2017 Kimberton Hound Show, came from Wishful, one of the last Penn-Marydel hounds that Bill bred before retiring. Bill's legacy lives on!

