

Brenda Cotter

Maid of Deer Track
Thurmont, Maryland
Inducted 2002

Brenda Cotter is presented by the Western Maryland Jousting Club for induction into the National Jousting Hall of Fame. Jousting is a sport that families enjoy together and Brenda's family is no exception. She joins her husband, Rob, as a member of the Hall of Fame. But we must note the participation of both of their daughters, Robin and Renee in jousting.

Brenda Cotter was raised in Kentucky horse country and her entire family back home is involved in some aspect of the horse industry including publishing. Her desire to work with horses and her diminutive size brought her to Maryland to work with hunter-jumper ponies. Here she met Rob Cotter, a native of Barnesville and they settled just a few miles from the site of the annual St. Mary's Catholic Shrine picnic and joust. Brenda and Rob were very active with their young family in jousting and Brenda was active in jousting as a non-rider for several years before Rob could encourage Brenda to join him in these friendly competitions. But the traditionally trained Brenda resisted competing at first. Jousting it seems requires that you forego the classical two-handed riding style so ingrained in Brenda. Her three-point stance from jumping, however, did assist her in reaching the rings.

Brenda began jousting by sharing Rob's horse, Cherry. Independent as ever, Brenda had to try her favorite thoroughbreds at jousting. Adjusting to their height can be a challenge but one that Brenda unerringly pursues.

Brenda and Rob hosted many jousting tournaments at their former home, Deer Track Farm that was located at the base of scenic Sugarloaf Mountain. They also ran a large boarding farm and conducted lessons and trail rides on the mountain. Jousters from several states always enjoyed the joust on Saturday and a relaxing trail ride on Sugarloaf on Sunday before heading home. Always a superb host, the Cotter's knew how to put on a picnic spread that would knock your socks off! Recently Brenda and Rob downsized and moved away from Deer Track but still participate at many local tournaments and always ensure that their youngest daughter, Renee who is still at home, can make as many out of state tournaments as possible.

Brenda has been an active participant in the Western Maryland Jousting Club for many years and contributes as much of her time and energy to the Club as possible. She has served as Vice President of the Club and delegate to the National Jousting Association. She is also a member of the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association. She has opened her home many times for club meetings, served on committees and pitched in wherever needed.

