



## **DONALD PHILHOWER**

**b. 1953**

**Golden's Bridge Hounds 1976-2006 and Millbrook Hunt 2004-2019**

Donald Philhower grew up in Peapack, New Jersey, and heard foxhounds run for the first time at the age of nine. They ran all night, under a full moon and from that point on he was hooked. He could not get enough and as he says, "it stuck in his blood ever since."

When Donald was thirteen his father took a job with the Essex Hunt where Buster Chadwell was the Huntsman. Harvey Styer taught him how to ride and Jill Slater then Joint Master hired him to work summers at the Kennels exercising and working with hounds. After graduation he went to work full time at Essex as the second whipper-in until 1973, when Harvey Styer huntsman at Golden's Bridge hired Donald as first whipper-in. In 1976 Senior Master Reggie Fox asked him to carry the horn for GBH which he did for 30 years. Donald bred an exceptional pack of hounds at GBH focusing on the Penn Marydel which were the best suited for the country and had exceptional nose and drive.

In 2004 he was hired at Millbrook to take over from Betsy Park, huntsman for 28 years. It was a homecoming of sorts as Elias Chadwell and Earl had both been Huntsman at Millbrook which went back to Donald's Essex days and working for Buster Chadwell. Donald worked to build the Millbrook pack and brought Penn Marydel blood into the mix. There was a fair amount of Essex blood as well which he deftly used to his advantage along with his connections in the Huntsman's world: Jody Murtagh, Larry Pitts, Marion Thorne and Tony Leahy. He has been known to say, "good hounds have to have voice, nose, speed and drive" and that "breeding foxhounds is a combination of science, art, and luck."

Donald has given Millbrook some of the finest sport in its history. He opened up our north territory with the Masters and his breeding program continues to flourish. When one talks about the invisible hand of a huntsman with his hounds, Donald has it in spades. He has always believed the most important aspect of hunting is to breed a pack suited for your country, to provide the best sport possible.

Humble, patient, courteous; a recipient of the Ian Milne Award in 2018, Donald has indeed made outstanding contributions to the sport of foxhunting.